Gatcha Gacha

Yutaka Tachibana

TOKYOPOP

Gatcha Gacha™

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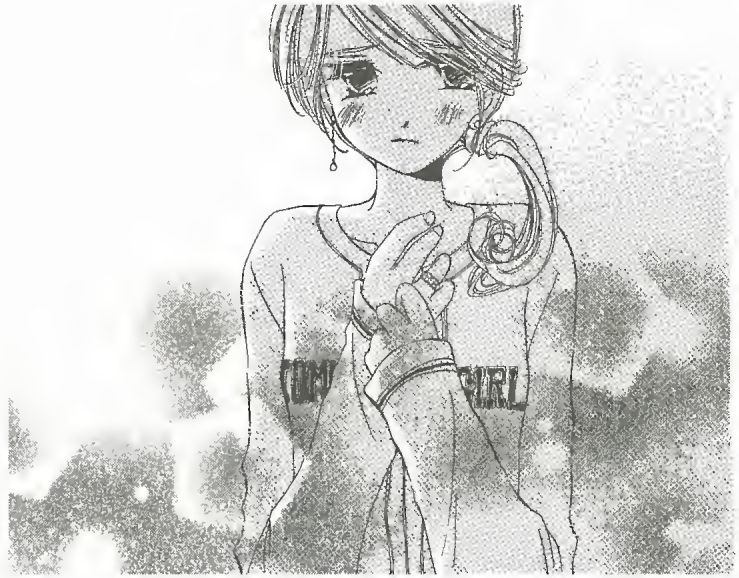
POW
GOD, WON'T YOU GUYS CATCH A CLUE?
GIVE UP ON SEKINE ALREADY!
THUD
YOU'RE LUCKY IT WAS ME TODAY, OR ELSE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OFF SO EASY.
IF IT WERE YOU-KNOW-WHO, YOU'D BE HALFWAY IN YOUR GRAVES RIGHT NOW.
TRUTH BE TOLD, YOU WENT A LITTLE OVERBOARD YOURSELF...
TOTALLY BEATEN



Gatcha Gacha

SEEING HER CHANGED SOMETHING IN YOU.

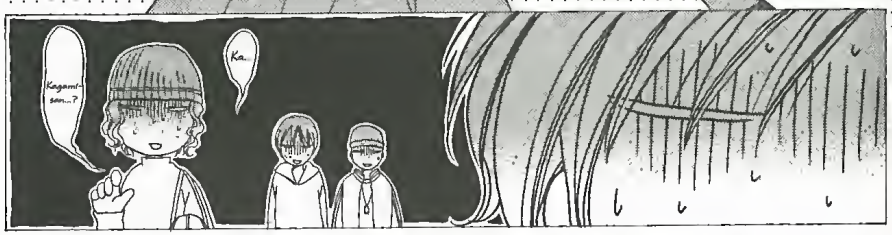
...THAT GIRL WHO LOOKED LIKE KANAKO KAGURAZAKA, YOUR LOVE ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

THE MOMENT YOU SAW HER...

EVER SINCE THAT DAY...

...YOU'VE BEEN ACTING... DIFFERENT.

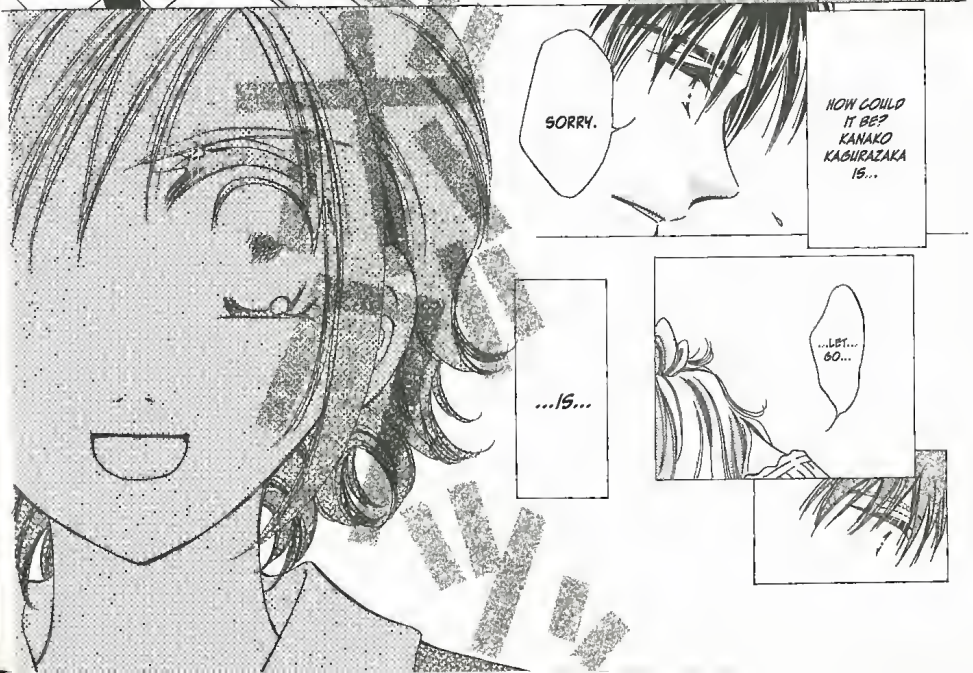
...YABE-SENPAI.

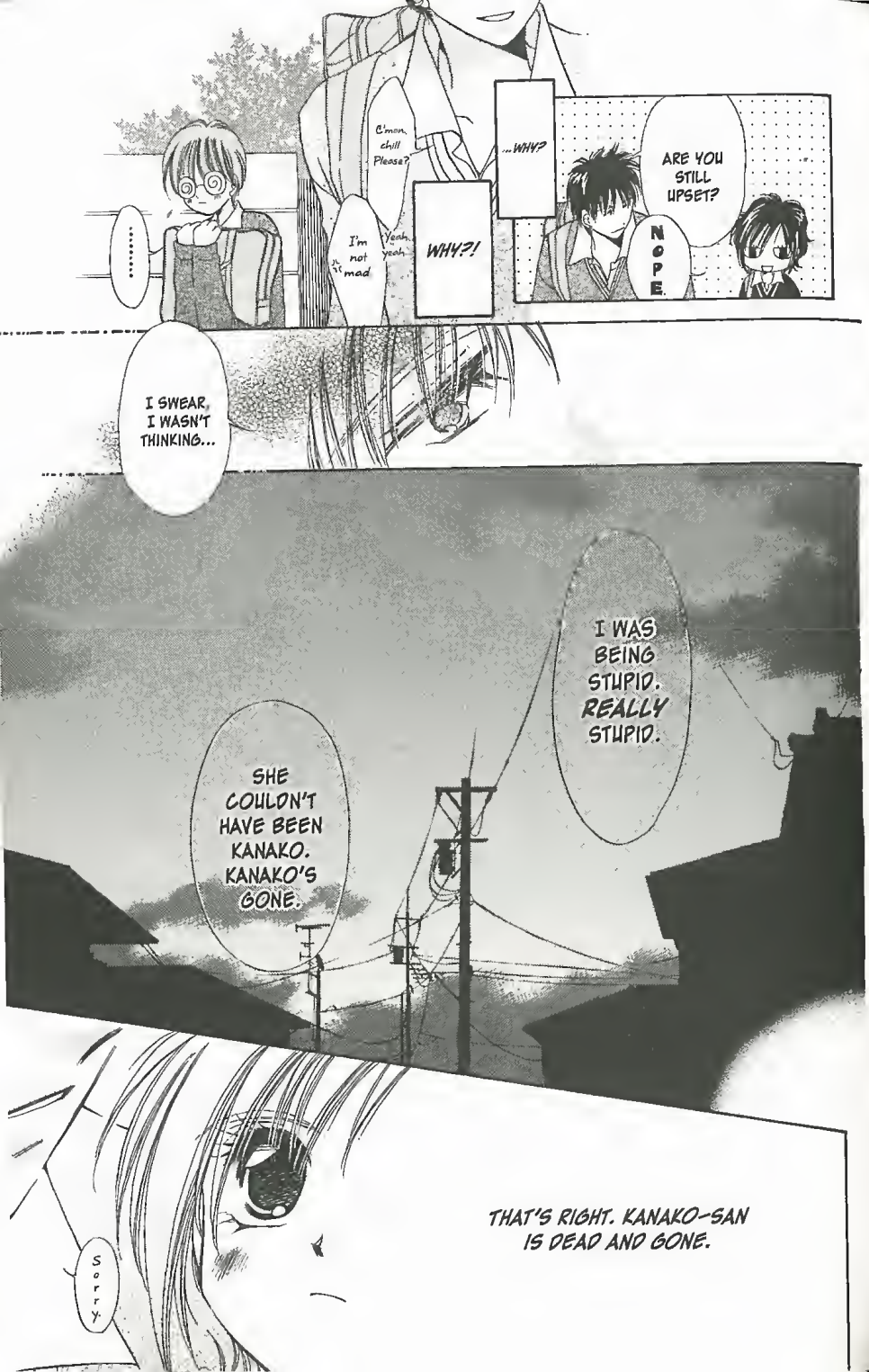


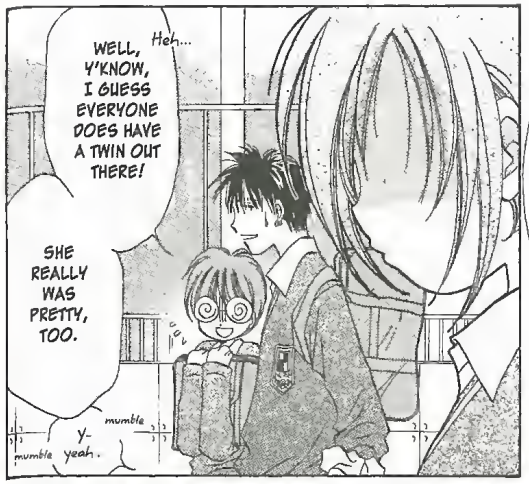
IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT SHE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE KANAKO-SAN. THEY AREN'T THE SAME PERSON.

KAGAMI, NOT KAGURA-ZAKA.

HER FRIEND CALLED HER "KAGAMI."

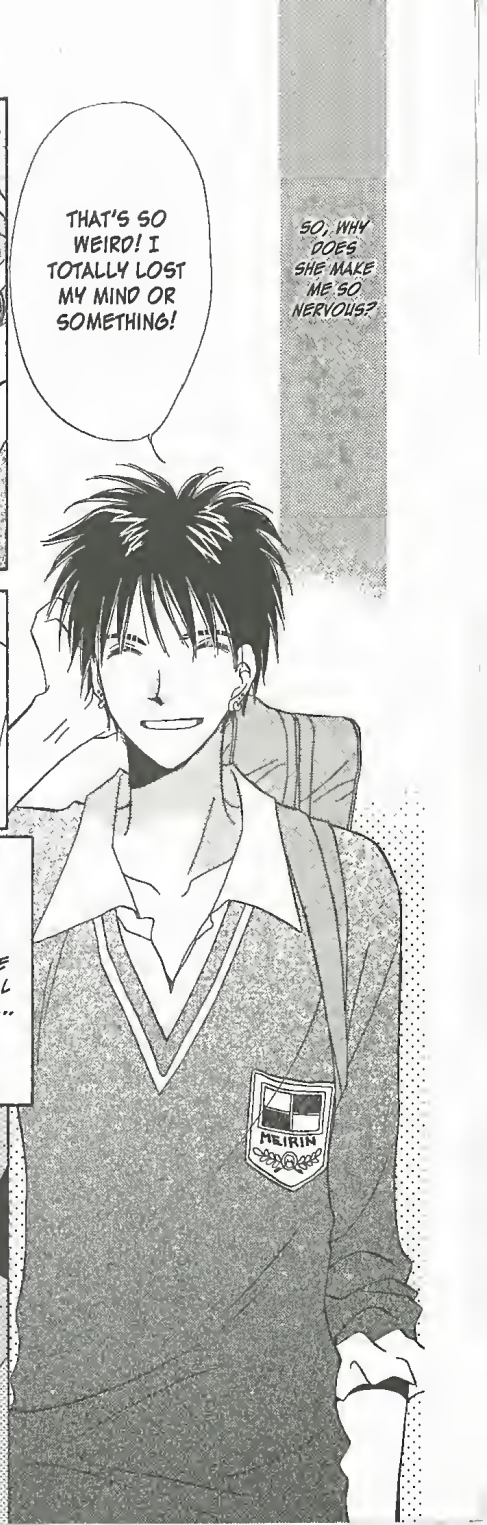



C'mon, chill Please?
I'm not mad
Yeah, yeah
WHY?!
...WHY?
ARE YOU STILL UPSET?
NOPE.
.....
I SWEAR, I WASN'T THINKING...
I WAS BEING STUPID. REALLY STUPID.
SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN KANAKO. KANAKO'S GONE.
THAT'S RIGHT. KANAKO-SAN IS DEAD AND GONE.
Sorry


WELL, Y'KNOW, I GUESS EVERYONE DOES HAVE A TWIN OUT THERE!
Heh...
SHE REALLY WAS PRETTY, TOO.
mumble
y-
mumble yeah.

WHAT?
YURI...?
ACK!
I'M SORRY, MUROI-SAN!
I MEAN...
GLARE

...THE CULTURE FESTIVAL IS OVER...
...BUT YABE-SENPAI'S HAIR IS STILL BLACK.
And he's still shaving..


THAT'S SO WEIRD! I TOTALLY LOST MY MIND OR SOMETHING!
SO, WHY DOES SHE MAKE ME SO NERVOUS?
MEIRIN

Geez, this is so freaky. All he did was shave the goatee and dye his hair black, and his popularity with the young lady readers shot through the roof. Junior-High-Yabe was also pretty popular (especially when he was doing kendo). Man, what is with you people? Do you really like slim-faced, weak-chinned Japanese guys that much? Or do you just not like facial hair?

Well, that's possible.

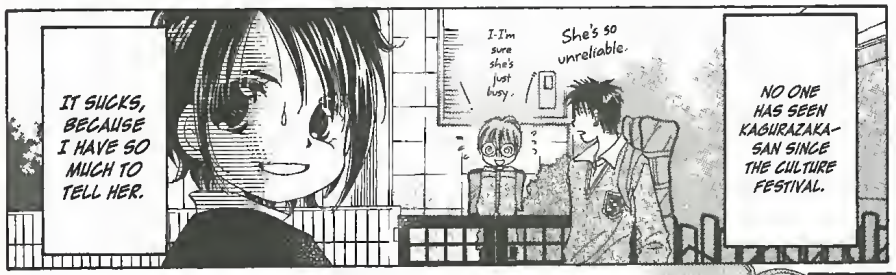
Oh well, not that it matters. I'm glad Yabe's popular, even if it is just temporarily.

The male readership doesn't seem to like him too much, though.

NO SWEAT. THOUGH, I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S UP WITH OUR SHE-DEVIL.
I HAVEN'T SEEN MOTOKO IN FOREVER. SHE NEVER MISSES TAKING YOU HOME ON WEDNESDAYS.
WHAT?
MY FRIENDS ARE ALL WRAPPED UP IN MYSTERIES THESE DAYS.

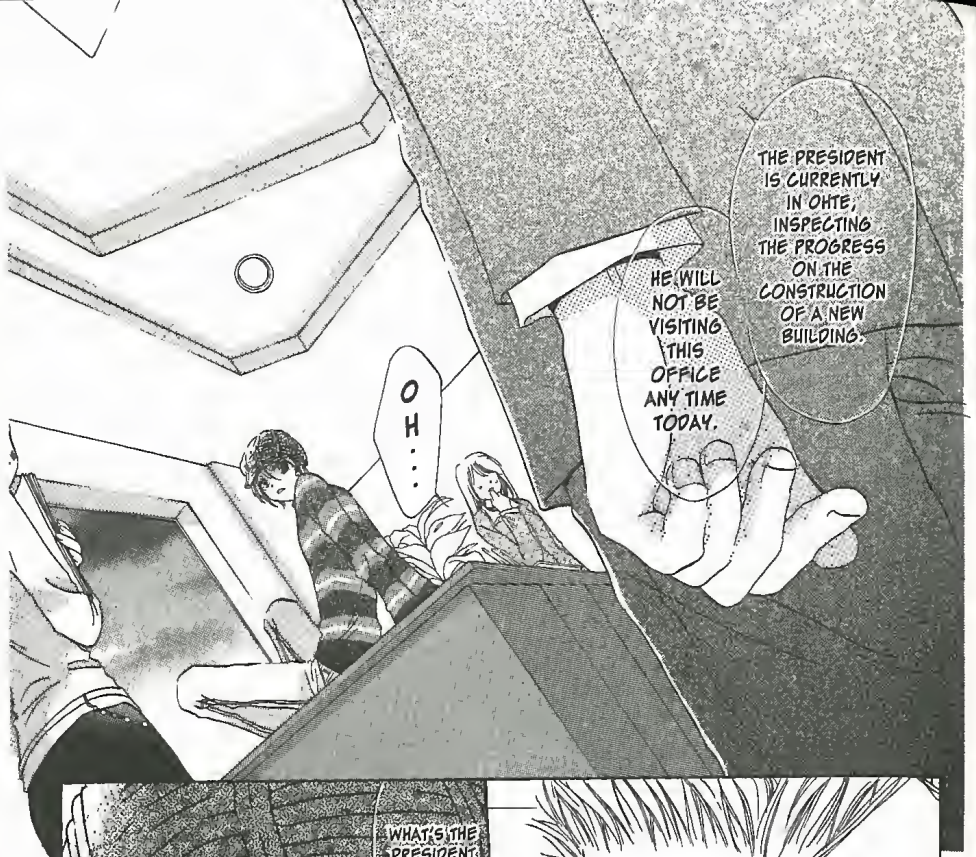
EXCEPT SHE'S NOT. SHE'S ALIVE IN YABE-SAN'S HEART.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR WALKING ME HOME TODAY. BOTH OF YOU.


IT SUCKS, BECAUSE I HAVE SO MUCH TO TELL HER.
I-I'm sure she's just busy.
She's so unreliable.
NO ONE HAS SEEN KAGURAZAKA-SAN SINCE THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.

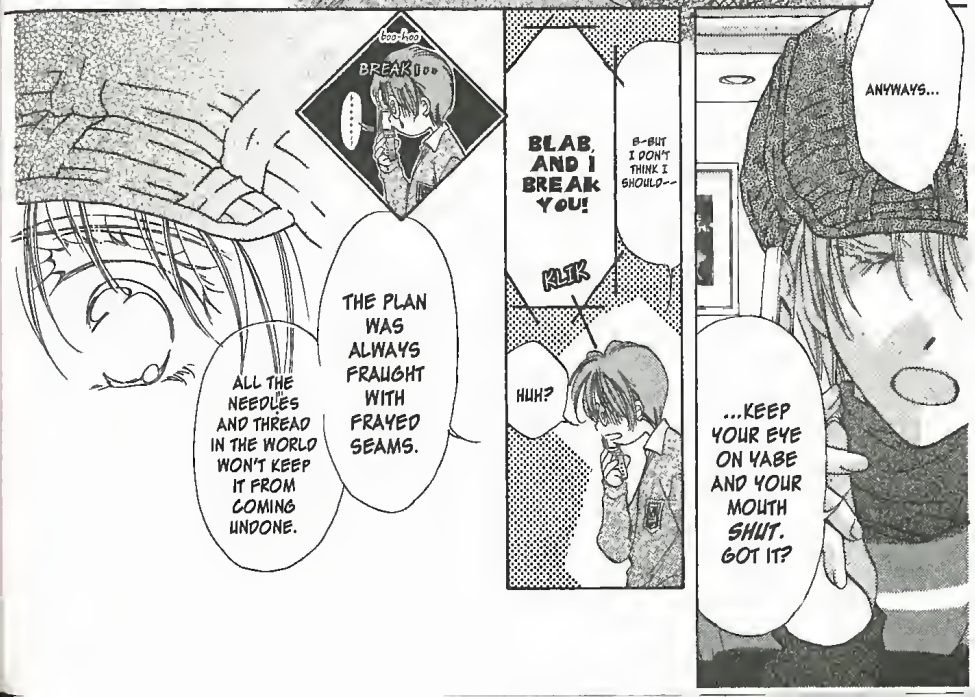
THEY THINK SHE'S THE PRESIDENT'S SON!
BUT IT TURNS OUT THE CRAFTY OLD FART AVOIDS HIS OFFICE LIKE THE PLAGUE.
Um—the President will be back later...
The President's son?
THEN WHY ARE YOU STILL THERE?
'CUZ THIS PLACE IS LOADED WITH HOT OFFICE BABES.
Plus, excellent service.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?!
WHOA, THERE.
YOU OKAY?
OOPS!
KYA!

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT SAYING ANYTHING, MY USELESS LACKEY!
ULP
Are you spying from nearby?
WHERE ARE YOU?!
KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN?!
Ka-
W-WHAT MADE YOU GO THERE?
Scary..
IS SHE TELEPATHIC?!
I THOUGHT I COULD AMBUSH HIM HERE.
BUT HE'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PIN DOWN, ALWAYS DASHING AWAY TO SOME MEETING OR COMPANY DINNER.
I WANT TO ASK GRAMPA ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON.
NOPE. I'M AT THE GEEZER'S OFFICE.

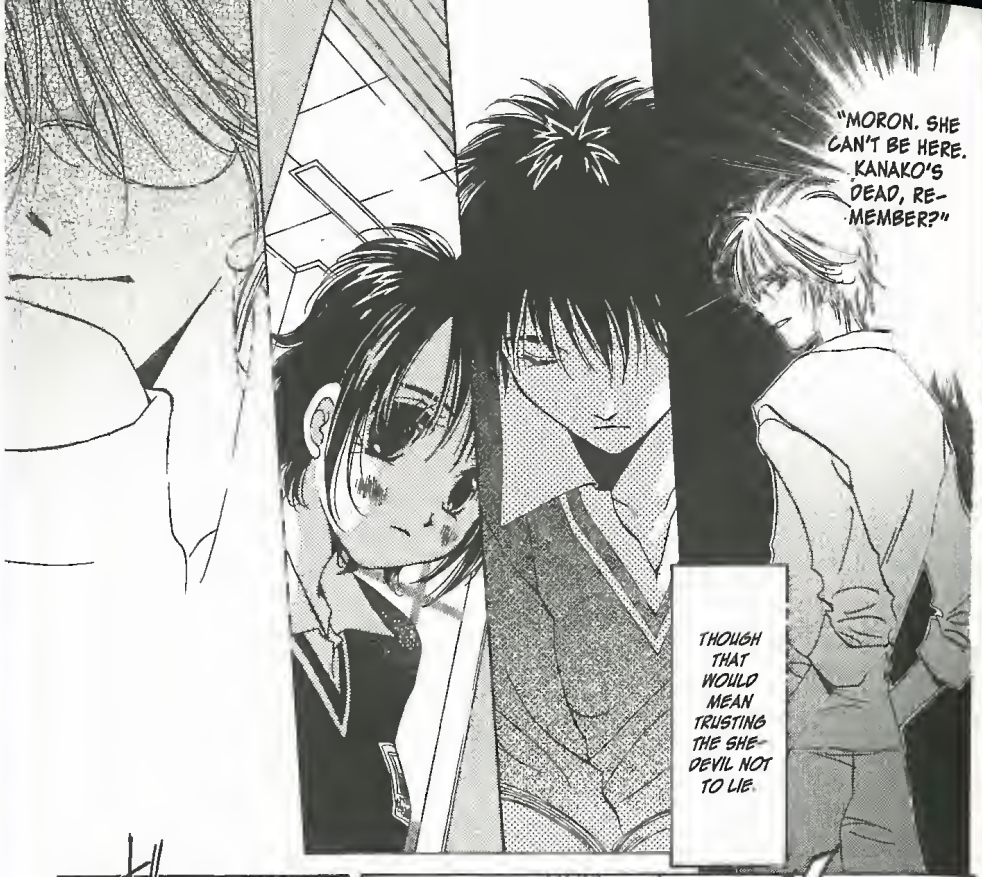

THE PRESIDENT IS CURRENTLY IN OHTE, INSPECTING THE PROGRESS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUILDING.
HE WILL NOT BE VISITING THIS OFFICE ANY TIME TODAY.
OH...

WHAT'S THE PRESIDENT OF OHTE BANK DOING HANGING AROUND HERE?
PRESI-DENT YABE!!
LONG TIME, NO SEE, MOTOKO-CHAN.
"Motoko"? Has a girl?!
No way!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE BUSY GOBBLING UP SMALLER, DEFENSELESS BANKS?
OR...

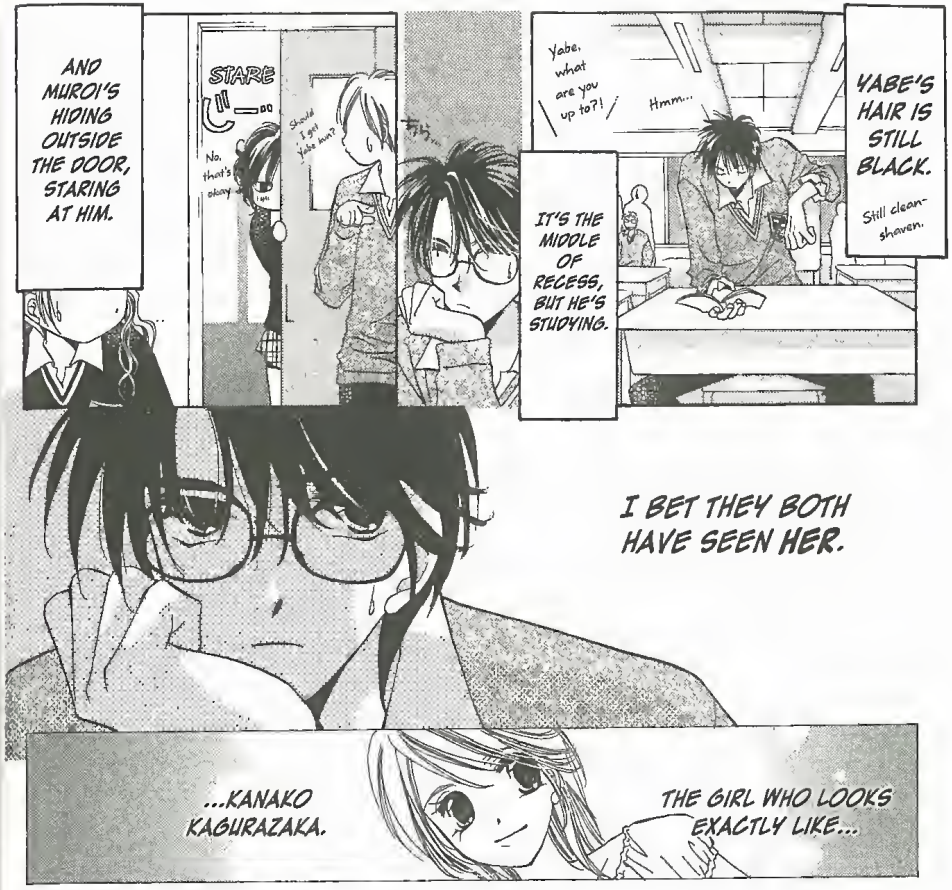
WOW, AREN'T YOU THE LOVELY ONE.
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU LOOK LIKE AKIKO YADA?
BATHUMP
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
Dammit, shut up!

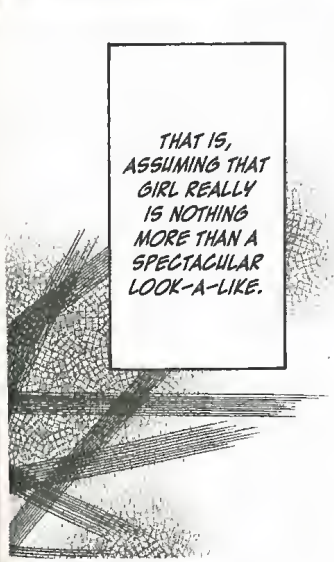

ANYWAYS...
...KEEP YOUR EYE ON YABE AND YOUR MOUTH SHUT. GOT IT?
B-BUT I DON'T THINK I SHOULD--
BLAB, AND I BREAK YOU!
KLIK
HUH?
boo-hoo
BREAK
THE PLAN WAS ALWAYS FRAUGHT WITH FRAYED SEAMS.
ALL THE NEEDLES AND THREAD IN THE WORLD WON'T KEEP IT FROM COMING UNDONE.

...HAS GRAMPA SUDDENLY DECIDED TO DO HIS OWN DIRTY WORK?
VERY FUNNY. I'M NOT HERE ON BUSINESS, ACTUALLY.
MY REASONS ARE COMPLETELY MY OWN. THOUGH, I SEEM TO HAVE BEEN STOOD UP ON MY APPOINTMENT.
HAR
UMPH
Ha ha ha ha
I brought his favorite treats and everything
THAT CONNIVING GEEZER!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
He has the tastes of a teenage girl
BUT...
MAYBE IT WAS YOU WHO SCARED HIM OFF, NOT ME.
IT'S LIKELY.
I CAME TO SPEAK WITH HIM ABOUT KANAKO-CHAN.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW MUCH HE'S TAKING MY SON INTO CONSIDERATION, BECAUSE I'D LIKE HIM TO STOP.
WELL, TO A DEGREE.
WHAT'D I'D REALLY LIKE FOR HIM TO DO...IS TO FORGIVE HER. FOR TAKAHIRO'S SAKE.
SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE.


"MORON. SHE CAN'T BE HERE. KANAKO'S DEAD, RE-MEMBER?"
THOUGH THAT WOULD MEAN TRUSTING THE SHE-DEVIL NOT TO LIE.

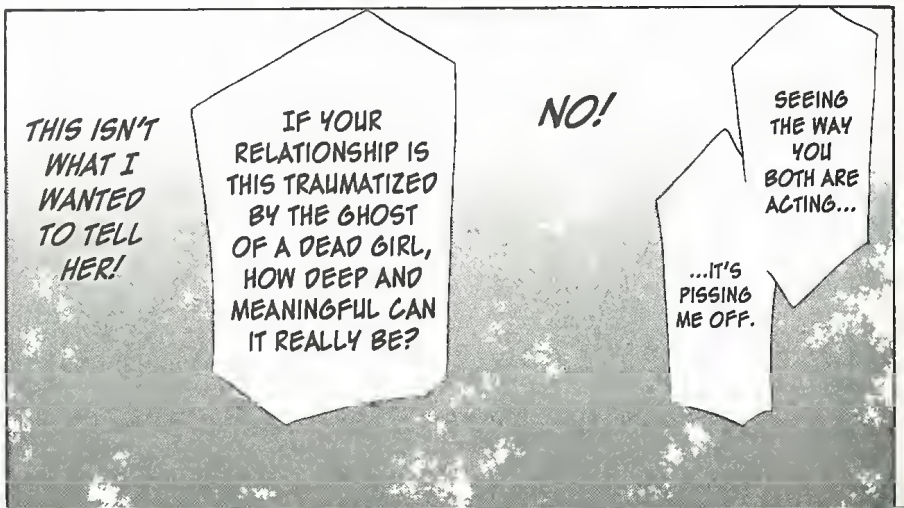
HIRAO-KUN?
STOMP STOMP STOMP
STOMP STOMP STOMP
THAT'S IT. I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY MORE!
CLATTER


AND MUROI'S HIDING OUTSIDE THE DOOR, STARING AT HIM.
STARE
Should I go? Take him?
No, that's okay.
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF RECESS, BUT HE'S STUDYING.
Yabe, what are you up to?!
Hmm...
YABE'S HAIR IS STILL BLACK.
Still clean-shaven.
I BET THEY BOTH HAVE SEEN HER.
...KANAKO KAGURAZAKA.
THE GIRL WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE...

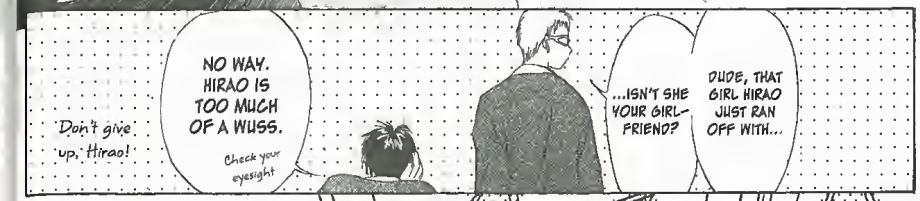

THAT IS, ASSUMING THAT GIRL REALLY IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SPECTACULAR LOOK-A-LIKE.

SHE'S HIS GIRLFRIEND. IT'S NATURAL IT WOULD FREAK HER OUT. SHE SAW A DEAD RINGER OF A GIRL HER BOYFRIEND LOVED ENOUGH TO DIE FOR.
IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY MUROI'S SO AGITATED.

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE EATING LUNCH WITH YABE, WEREN'T YOU?
WH-WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT? JUST BECAUSE I--
WHAA--?!
I'VE SEEN HER. I SAW THE GIRL WHO LOOKS LIKE KANAKO KAGURAZAKA.
A MAN CAN NEVER FORGET A WOMAN HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO LOVE.
HUH?


THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED TO TELL HER!
IF YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS THIS TRAUMATIZED BY THE GHOST OF A DEAD GIRL, HOW DEEP AND MEANINGFUL CAN IT REALLY BE?
NO!
SEEING THE WAY YOU BOTH ARE ACTING...
...IT'S PISSING ME OFF.

Oh...
HELLO, HIRAO-SENP--
COME HERE.
...HUH?


Don't give up, Hirao!
NO WAY. HIRAO IS TOO MUCH OF A WUSS.
Check your eyesight
...ISN'T SHE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
DUDE, THAT GIRL HIRAO JUST RAN OFF WITH...

RUNNING FULL SPEED DOWN FOUR FLIGHTS OF STAIRS AND ONTO THE SCHOOL COMMONS WOULD MAKE ANYONE OUT OF BREATH!
Especially normal high-school girls!
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH YOU, HIRAO-SENPAI?!
WHAT THE--?!
GRAR
Why're you acting like a jock?
THAT BENTO.
YOU REALLY NEED TO GET INTO SHAPE, MUROI.
HUFF
WHEEZE
HUFF
PUFF
HUFF

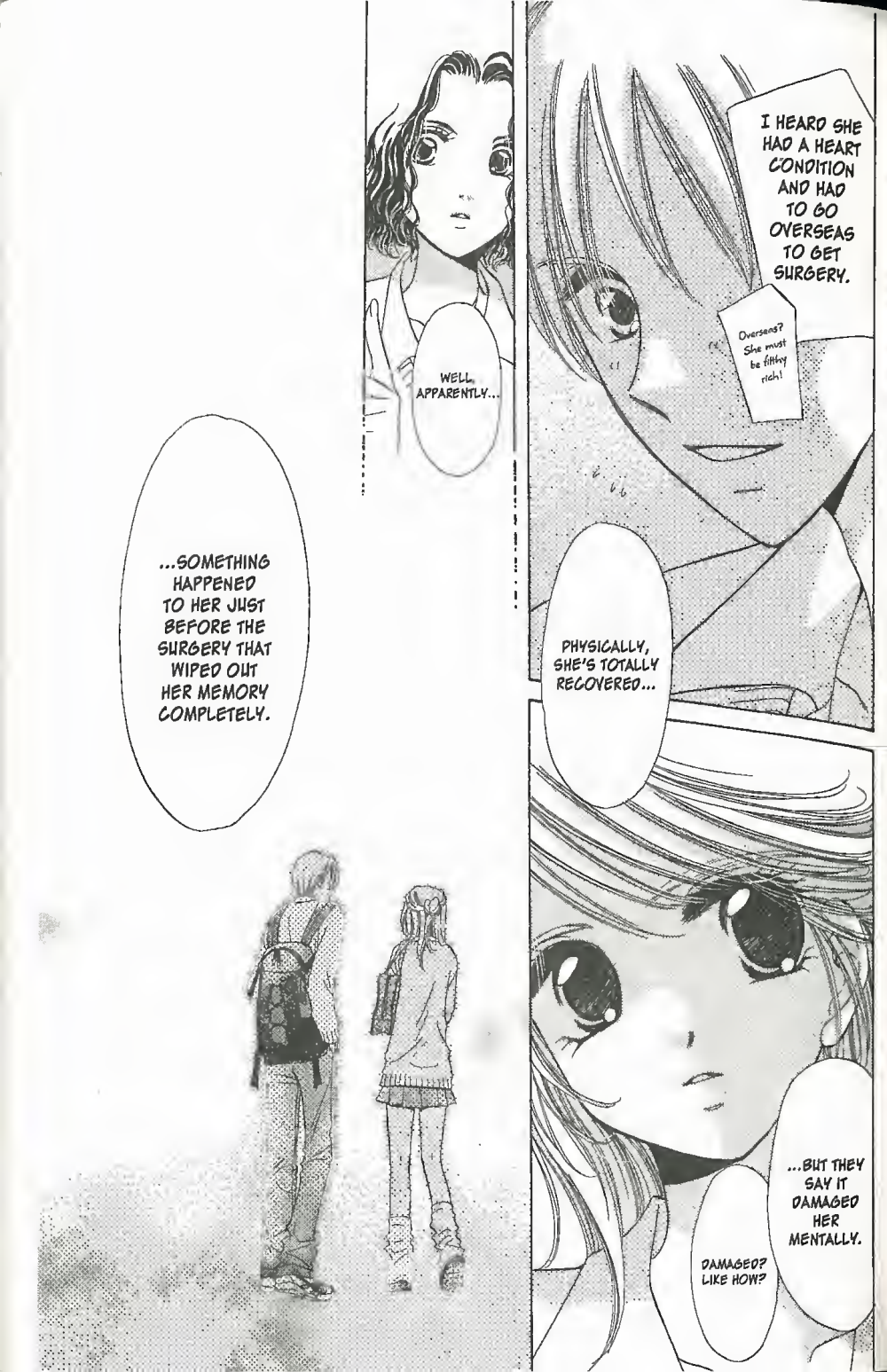
IF YOU'RE SO AFRAID THAT YABE ISN'T GOING TO GO THE DISTANCE...
...THEN DUMP HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE EVER TOOK YOU SERIOUSLY. GET AWAY BEFORE YOU GET TOO DEEP!
CRAP!
AH!
HELL, I DOUBT THE JERK IS EVEN CAPABLE--
I DID IT AGAIN!
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED TO SAY...
HIRAO-SENPAI...
...YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY.
I'M FINE.
I'M SERIOUS. I'M COMMITTED.
I WON'T GIVE UP.
.....
EVERY-THING IS OKAY.
WE'LL BE FINE.
SHE'S TRYING TO COVER HER DESPERATION.
YABE'S OOO BEHAVIOR ...
...WILL PASS. I KNOW IT.
HER VOICE, IT'S STRAINED.
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED.
...MUROI ...?
Butt out! None of your business!
What the hell do you know?!
SHE MUST HATE ME!
MU...

DON'T SAY IT.
I...
DON'T SAY IT. DON'T YOU DARE SAY IT.
Y--
YOU THINK SO?

I'M SORRY.
I NEED TO LEARN TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU.
I'M SURE...
HE DID CHOOSE YOU, AFTER ALL.
...YABE IS SERIOUS ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE SO SCARED, YOU CAN'T EVEN CRY.
I...I WAS UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE. I'M SORRY...
...FOR TAKING IT OUT ON YOU.
MY WORDS ONLY EVER BRING YOU PAIN.

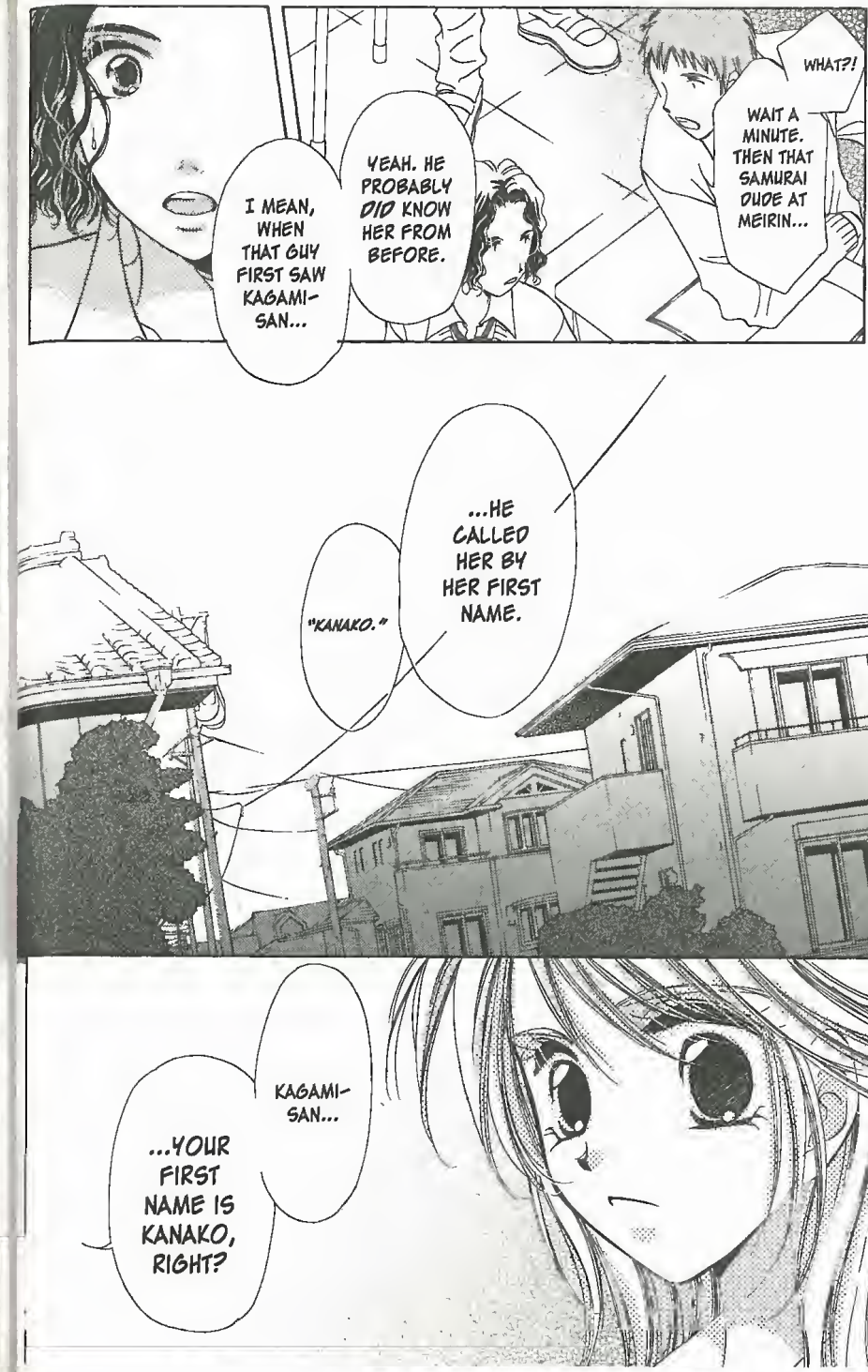
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
KAGAMI-SAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
!!!
HUH? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
OH, NO! YOUR BEAD RING WASN'T THERE EITHER?
IT'S NOT IMP--
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
SHE-- HEY!
YEAH. IT'S ONLY, LIKE, KAGAMI-SAN'S MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION.
It's pretty cute, too.
BEAD RING?

...I'M HERE FOR YOU, MUROI. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP YOU AND YABE.
I'M THE BIGGEST IDIOT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.
I MUST HAVE LEFT IT BACK AT MEIRIN HIGH.
OH, NO!
IT'S NOT HERE, EITHER.

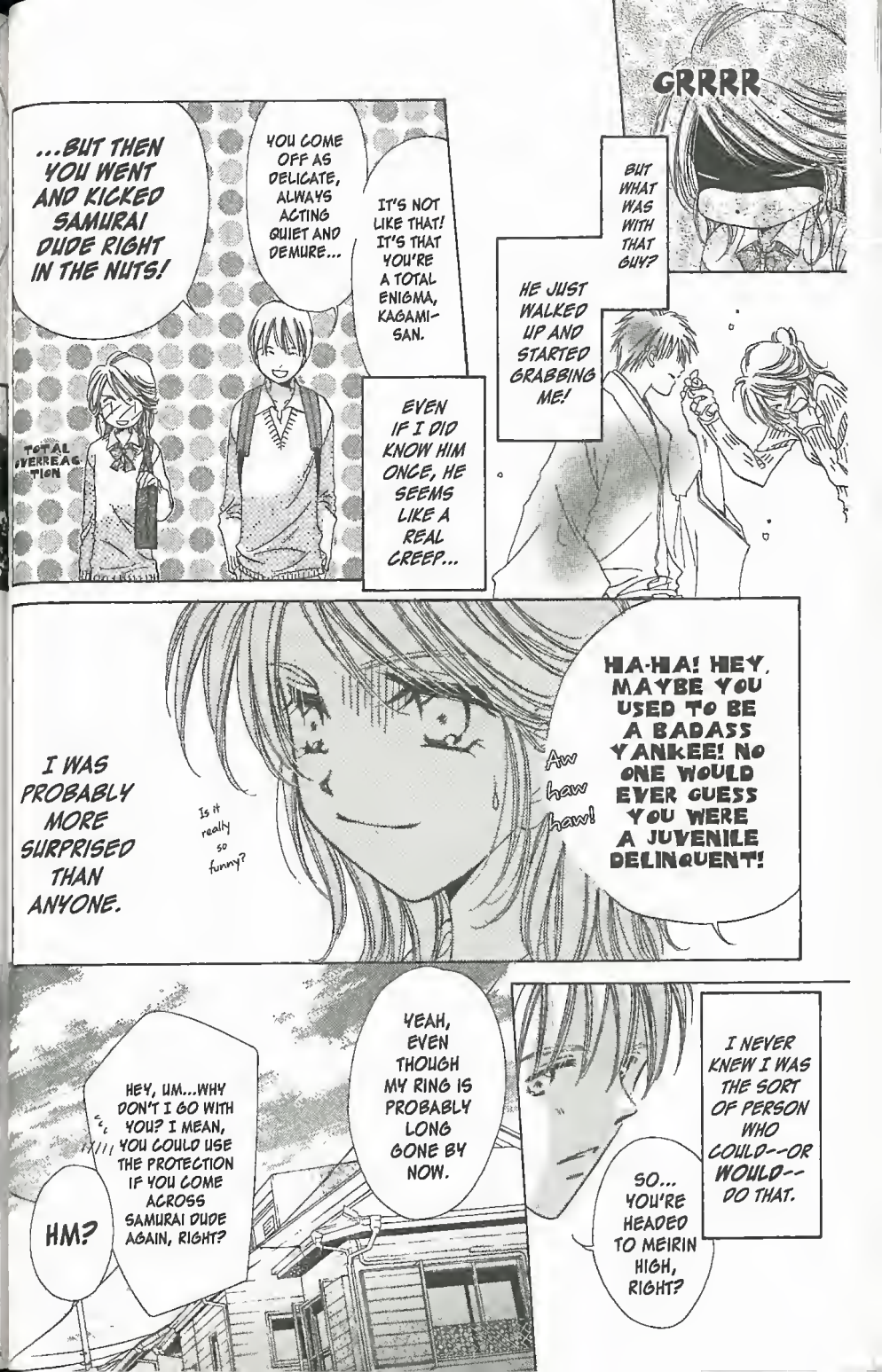

WELL, APPARENTLY...
I HEARD SHE HAD A HEART CONDITION AND HAD TO GO OVERSEAS TO GET SURGERY.
Overseas? She must be filthy rich!
PHYSICALLY, SHE'S TOTALLY RECOVERED...
...BUT THEY SAY IT DAMAGED HER MENTALLY.
DAMAGED? LIKE HOW?
...SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HER JUST BEFORE THE SURGERY THAT WIPED OUT HER MEMORY COMPLETELY.

GIVE HER A BREAK. SHE'S STILL NEW HERE.
THAT CHICK HATES EVERYONE.
SLAM
I'D HAVE GONE WITH...
TOO BAD. SHE'S PRETTY HOT.
I TOOK IT OFF TO WASH MY HANDS. I MUST'VE FORGOTTEN TO PUT IT BACK ON.
IT'S THERE. IT'S GOT TO BE.
We're supposed to walk together
ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY, KAGAMI-SAN?
SORRY.
I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO.
LATER, GUYS.
I'M GONNA JET, TOO.
What about club?
BUT SONOBE--?!
HUH?!
IS HE TOTALLY CRUSHING ON KAGAMI-SAN OR WHAT?
SHE WAS SUPPOSEDLY HELD BACK A YEAR DUE TO SOME DARK SECRET.
WELL, SHE IS A YEAR OLDER THAN US.
THE GIRL IS PRETTY SOPHISTICATED.
WOULDN'T YOU BE?

I. DON'T. KNOW. HIM.
MAYBE YOU MET HIM BEFORE THE MEMORY LOSS.
HOW DID THAT GUY KNOW THAT?
BEATS ME.
...BECAUSE AMNESIACS USUALLY WANT TO REGAIN THEIR PASTS.
I'M THE EXCEPTION THAT PROVES THE RULE.
IT'S KIND OF WEIRD...
I'M HAPPY. IT MAKES SENSE, IN A WAY.
I HAVE A GOOD HOME WHERE MY PARENTS REALLY LOVE AND CARE FOR ME.
I MEAN...
I'VE BEEN LIVING MY LIFE PERFECTLY FINE WITHOUT THEM.
IF YOU SAY SO...
YOU PERVERT!
DOESN'T BOTHER ME. I LIKE GIRLS TO HAVE SOME MYSTERY!
SOMETHING TELLS ME TO LEAVE THE PAST ALONE.


WHAT?!
WAIT A MINUTE. THEN THAT SAMURAI DUDE AT MEIRIN...
YEAH. HE PROBABLY DID KNOW HER FROM BEFORE.
I MEAN, WHEN THAT GUY FIRST SAW KAGAMI-SAN...
"KANAKO."
...HE CALLED HER BY HER FIRST NAME.
KAGAMI-SAN...
...YOUR FIRST NAME IS KANAKO, RIGHT?

.....
SEE YOU.
I can take care of myself.
NO, NOT REALLY. YOU DON'T NEED TO COME.
NO, I JUST DON'T NEED ANY HELP.
GOD, YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE PEOPLE, DO YOU?!
EEP!
Pleased
TEE HEE...
KANADA?
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU STARTED WEARING JEWELRY?
おたおたおた
OH GOD, OH GOD, OH GOD!
TEE HEE HEE HEE...
twinkle
twinkle
twinkle


...BUT THEN YOU WENT AND KICKED SAMURAI DUDE RIGHT IN THE NUTS!
TOTAL OVERREACTION
YOU COME OFF AS DELICATE, ALWAYS ACTING QUIET AND DEMURE...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT'S THAT YOU'RE A TOTAL ENIGMA, KAGAMI-SAN.
EVEN IF I DID KNOW HIM ONCE, HE SEEMS LIKE A REAL CREEP...
GRRRR
BUT WHAT WAS WITH THAT GUY?
HE JUST WALKED UP AND STARTED GRABBING ME!
I WAS PROBABLY MORE SURPRISED THAN ANYONE.
Is it really so funny?
Aw haw haw!
HA-HA! HEY, MAYBE YOU USED TO BE A BADASS YANKEE! NO ONE WOULD EVER GUESS YOU WERE A JUVENILE DELINQUENT!
I NEVER KNEW I WAS THE SORT OF PERSON WHO COULD--OR WOULD--DO THAT.
SO... YOU'RE HEADED TO MEIRIN HIGH, RIGHT?
YEAH, EVEN THOUGH MY RING IS PROBABLY LONG GONE BY NOW.
HEY, UM...WHY DON'T I GO WITH YOU? I MEAN, YOU COULD USE THE PROTECTION IF YOU COME ACROSS SAMURAI DUDE AGAIN, RIGHT?
HM?

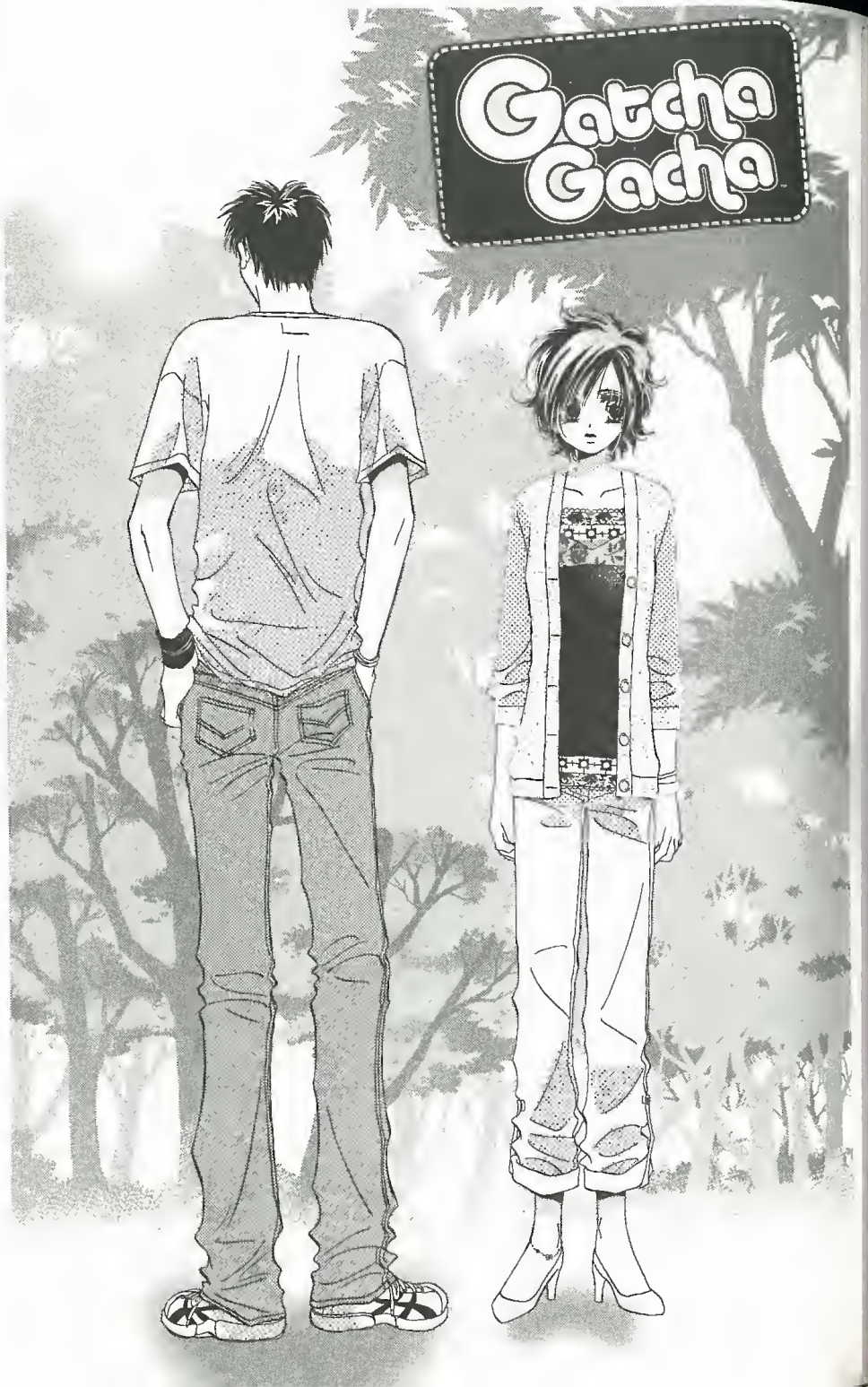
...DO YOU KNOW WHERE YURI IS? I HAVEN'T SEEN HER ALL DAY...
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT...
...TO MAKE A CRACK ABOUT HOW I TREAT GIRLS. REALLY? YOU?!
I DON'T--
CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY...
...THAT YOU HAVEN'T HURT MUROI? THAT YOU HAVEN'T MADE HER CRY?
HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR INDECISION MAKES HER FEEL?

Oh, good! Now what do I do?
IT'S SILLY! BEADWORK HAS NEVER LOOKED GOOD ON ME!
I WAS CLEANING IT OUT WHEN I FOUND THE RING, AND I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! I HAD TO TRY IT ON!
I'M SO SORRY!!!
WHAT?! S-SINCE NEVER!
I JUST NOTICED IT IN THE LOST AND FOUND BOX FROM THE FESTIVAL.
IT LOOKS LIKE A TOY.
WHAT, THIS THING?
I wasn't fantasizing about anything I swear!
Yes, she was.
I WAS JUST CURIOUS! THAT'S ALL! DON'T JUDGE ME!!!
THAT POOR GIRL.
Eep!
OOPS, SORRY.
ANYWAY ...
YOU REALLY HAVE TO STOP MAKING GIRLS CRY LIKE THAT, HIRAO. IT LOOKS BAD.

...THANKS.
WHEN I WEAR IT...
...I DON'T MIND THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A LITTLE HOLE IN MY HEART.
...HOW HUGE THIS PLACE IS!
I CAN NEVER GET OVER...
IT'S ALL I REALLY NEED.
I HOPE YOU FIND IT.
...THAT RING IS STILL SUPER IMPORTANT TO ME.
BUT...
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE.
MY PAST IS GONE, AND I'M FINE WITH THAT.
...THAT I KNOW I HAD BEFORE I LOST MY MEMORY.
IT'S THE ONE THING I OWN...
THAT BEAD RING IS MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION.
SHE'S IN SO MUCH PAIN, SHE CAN'T EVEN CRY ANYMORE!!

OW!
DAMMIT, HIRAO! WHAT'D YOU JUST THROW AT--
...ME ...?
AH-HA! THERE IT IS!
DON'T YOU GET IT? EVERYONE'S LIVES WILL BE RUINED...
...IF HE EVER COMES ACROSS KANAKO AGAIN!!

I HAVE TO FIND ANSWERS. I NAVE TO PIN DOWN KAGURAZAKA-SAN...
LET'S DO THIS!
...AND ASK NER ABOUT KANAKO-SAN. TODAY!
IF I CAN SETTLE MY DOUBTS ONCE AND FOR ALL, TNEN I'LL BE ABLE TO FIGHT.
I CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPY AGAIN, SO TNAT WE CAN LOVE EACN OTHER FULLY.
Eee! Senpai!
Ha ha ha! Yuri, you're such a dork.
One of those couples...
He'll grow back his goatee and bleach his hair...
YOU CAN DO TNIS!!
YIKES!!
HAVE YOU GONE SENILE, OLD MAN?!
G-G-GOTTA A-ASK...
EVERYTHING WILL BE PERFECT!
Your voice is shaking...
THAT FAMILY IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN SENDAI!! SO WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING BACK HERE IN TOKYO?!
AH-HA! KAGURAZAKA-SAN. It's been ages!
YABE'S NO MORON! IT WON'T TAKE HIM LONG TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED!
mumble
mumble
sneak
I THINK SHE'S IN THE LIVING ROOM...
TH-THAT WAS KAGURAZAKA-SAN...
WHAT THE HECK?
GOD! WHAT GOOD IS HAVING MONEY AND POWER?!


Gatcha Gacha

"EVERYONE'S LIVES WILL BE RUINED...
EXCUSE ME!
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
THAT'S MY BEAD RING!
HUFF
...FOR FINDING--
HUFF
...IF HE EVER COMES ACROSS KANAKO AGAIN!!"
Huh?
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIX THIS, GENIUS?!
HE LOVED KANAKO MORE THAN HIS OWN LIFE!
IF HE SEES HER AGAIN, IT'S ALL OVER!
FIX WHAT?
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
YOU'RE ALL NUTS! YOU, THE KAGAMIS, AND YABE'S IDIOT FATHER!!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
mumble
B-BUT... WE HAD NO CHOICE...
mumble

Recommended DVD
In America

THE OLDER DAUGHTER SINGS A BEAUTIFUL VERSION OF "DESPERADO." IT WAS PERFECT! YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THE ORIGINAL ENGLISH, NOT THE JAPANESE DUB!

It's a story about an Irish family that immigrated to America and the little miracles that happen to them. The two little daughters are soooooo adorable! Especially the younger one, Ariel-chan. She's as cute and loveable as an angel. No...Wait...She is an angel! I don't care what anybody says, Ariel-chan is an angel!!

If I ever have daughters like them, I'll never, ever let them go. Not ever.

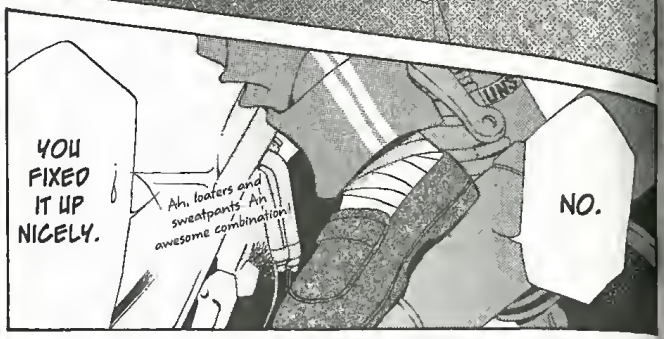
GRANDPA, I'VE GOTTA GO. BE BACK IN A BIT.
FEAR
.....
I KNOW, I KNOW! HOLD ON A SECOND.
KAGURA-ZAKA-SAAAAN !!!
YURI, YOU'RE COMING, TOO.
HUH?
KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN?
!
RIGHT. ON MY WAY.
BEEP BEEP
WHAT, SEKINE?
HEY!
WAIT A MINUTE! I HAVEN'T--
LISTEN...
TELL ME!
...I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO HEAR...
...AFTER WE'VE FOUND YABE AND KANAKO.
URK.
--IS GOING ON HERE?!
TELL ME MORE...!!
KA... KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN...
GYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!
ぎゅ...ぎゅぎゅ...
OO~~~~ZE
...TO LIE TO ME. I'LL KNOW.
DON'T EVEN TRY...
LOVE-CRAZED GIRLS ARE SCARY!
...YURI?
What the hell are you doing here?

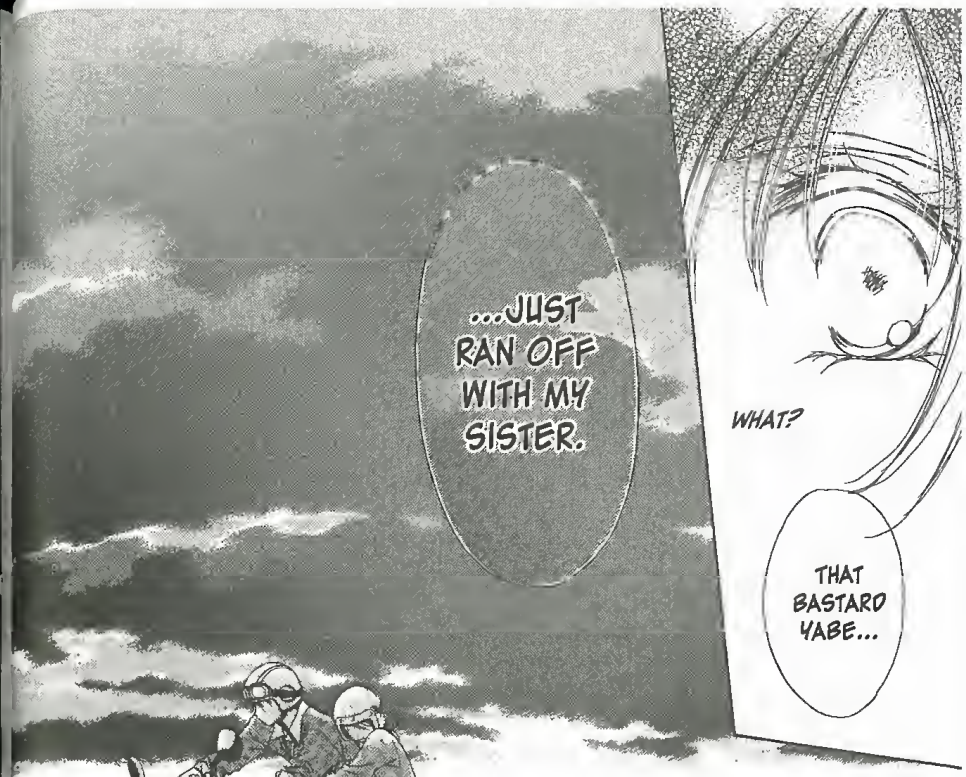
I'd wanted to write about this in one of the columns in the last volume, but I ran out of space, so I've had to wait.

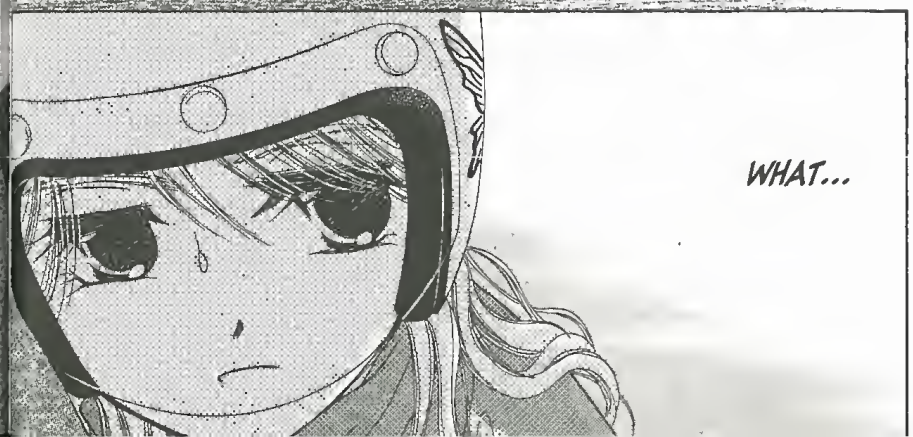
You know, without his glasses on, it's nearly impossible to tell who that is down there. I'd originally intended to give him these really squinty, narrow eyes and make him on the uglier side of average. But, after thinking about it, I decided nobody would really like that, so I changed my approach.

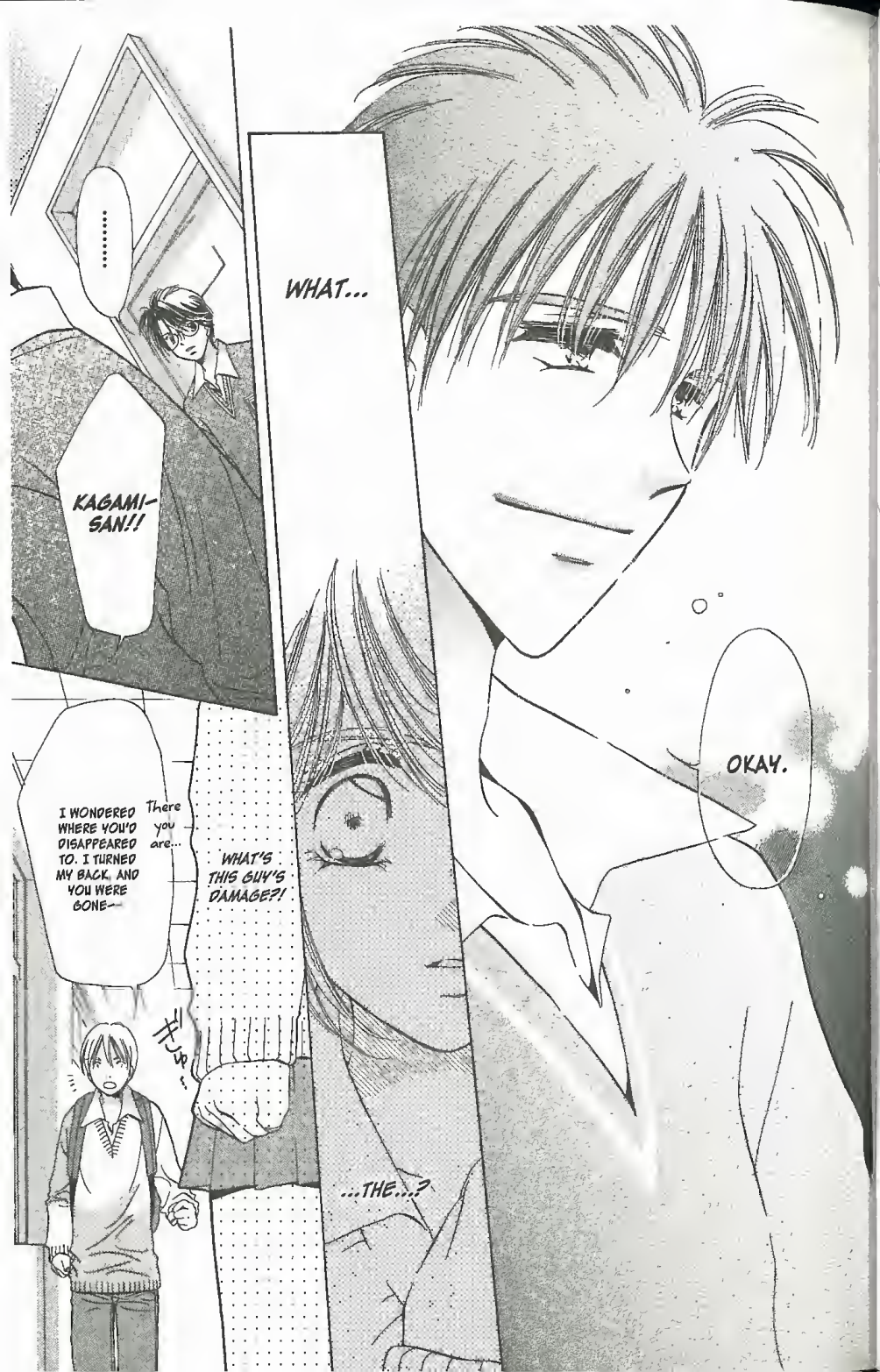
He gets picked on so often and so badly he doesn't really know what's going on any more. That's earned him a spot right behind Hirao in the sympathy vote tally...

If Motoko asked him to, I bet he wouldn't hesitate to get a sex-change operation. But that would make a screwed up situation even weirder, so don't even think about it...okay, Sekine?

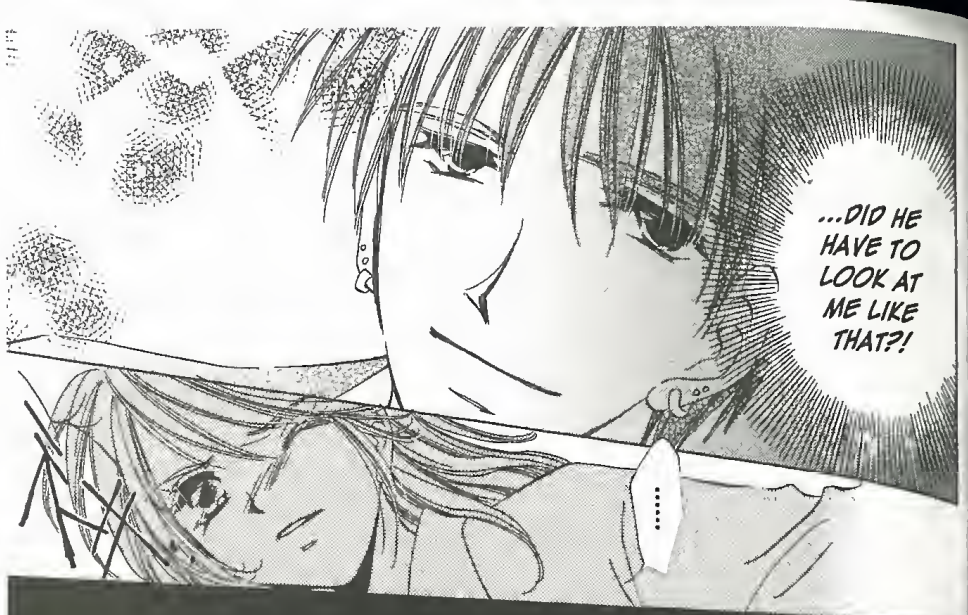




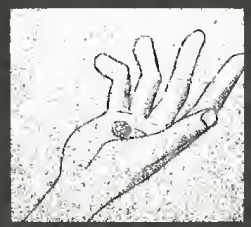



.....
KAGAMI-SAN!!
WHAT...
OKAY.
I WONDERED WHERE YOU'D DISAPPEARED TO. I TURNED MY BACK, AND YOU WERE GONE—
There you are...
WHAT'S THIS GUY'S DAMAGE?!
ギュッ
...THE...?

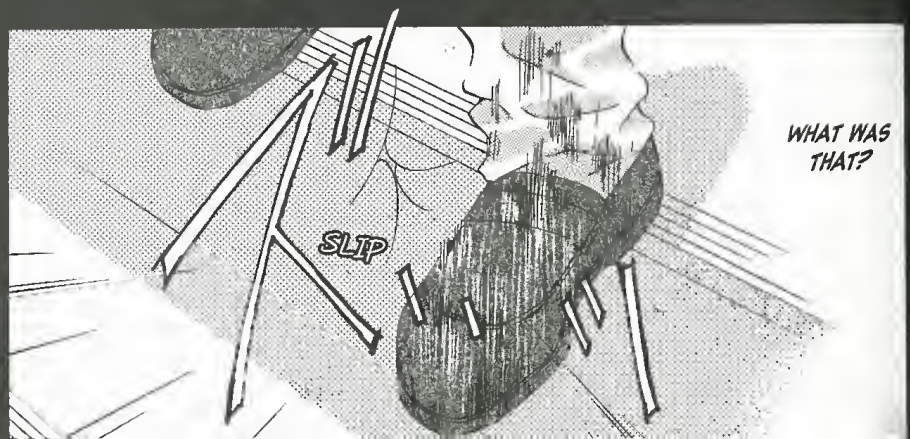
...WOULD HE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME?
IS THIS LITTLE BEAD RING...
...REALLY THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
HIM!
KANAKO-SAN.
LEAVE ME ALONE!
BUT THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
THE SAMURAI FROM THE FESTIVAL!
YES!

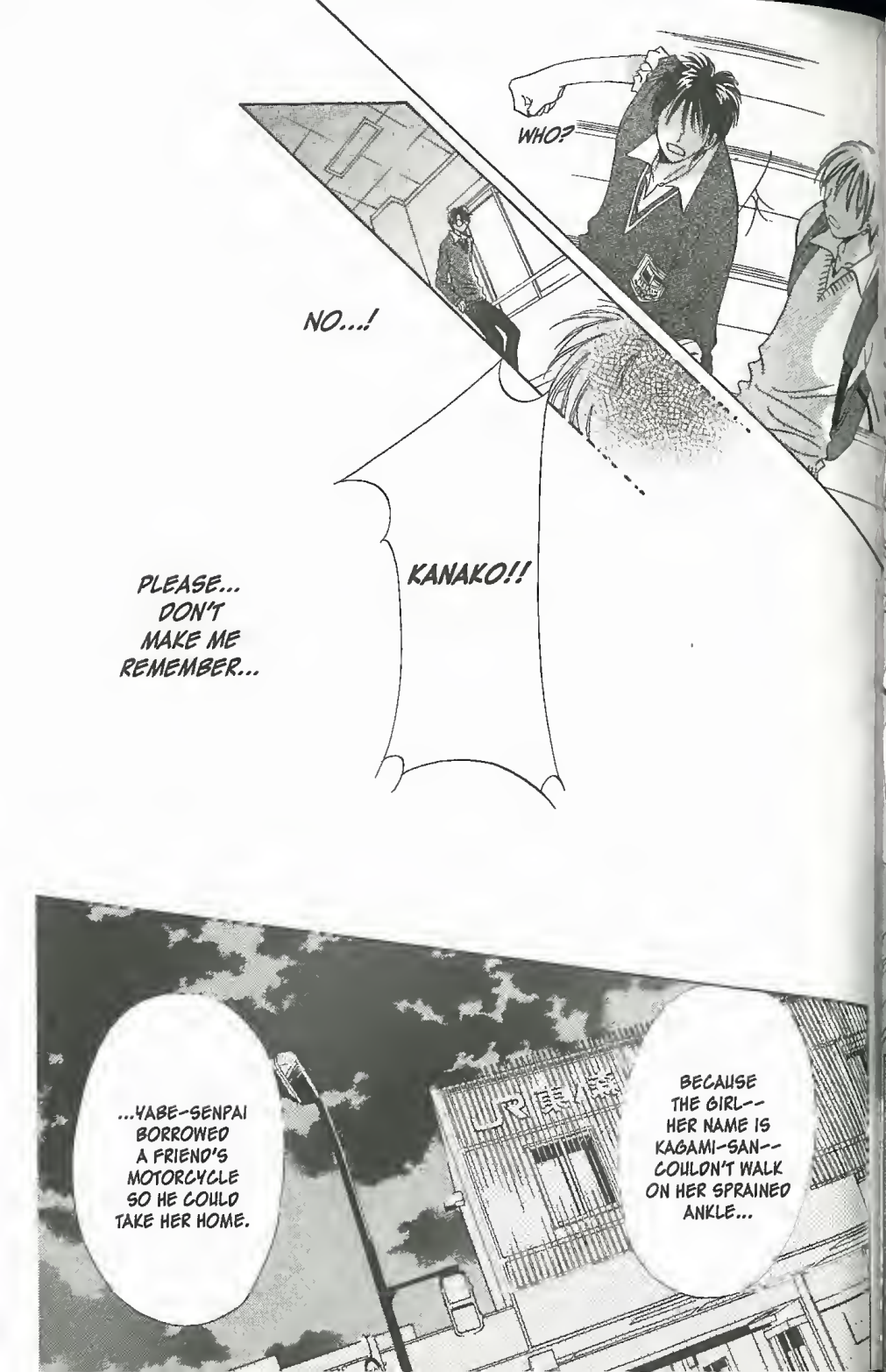


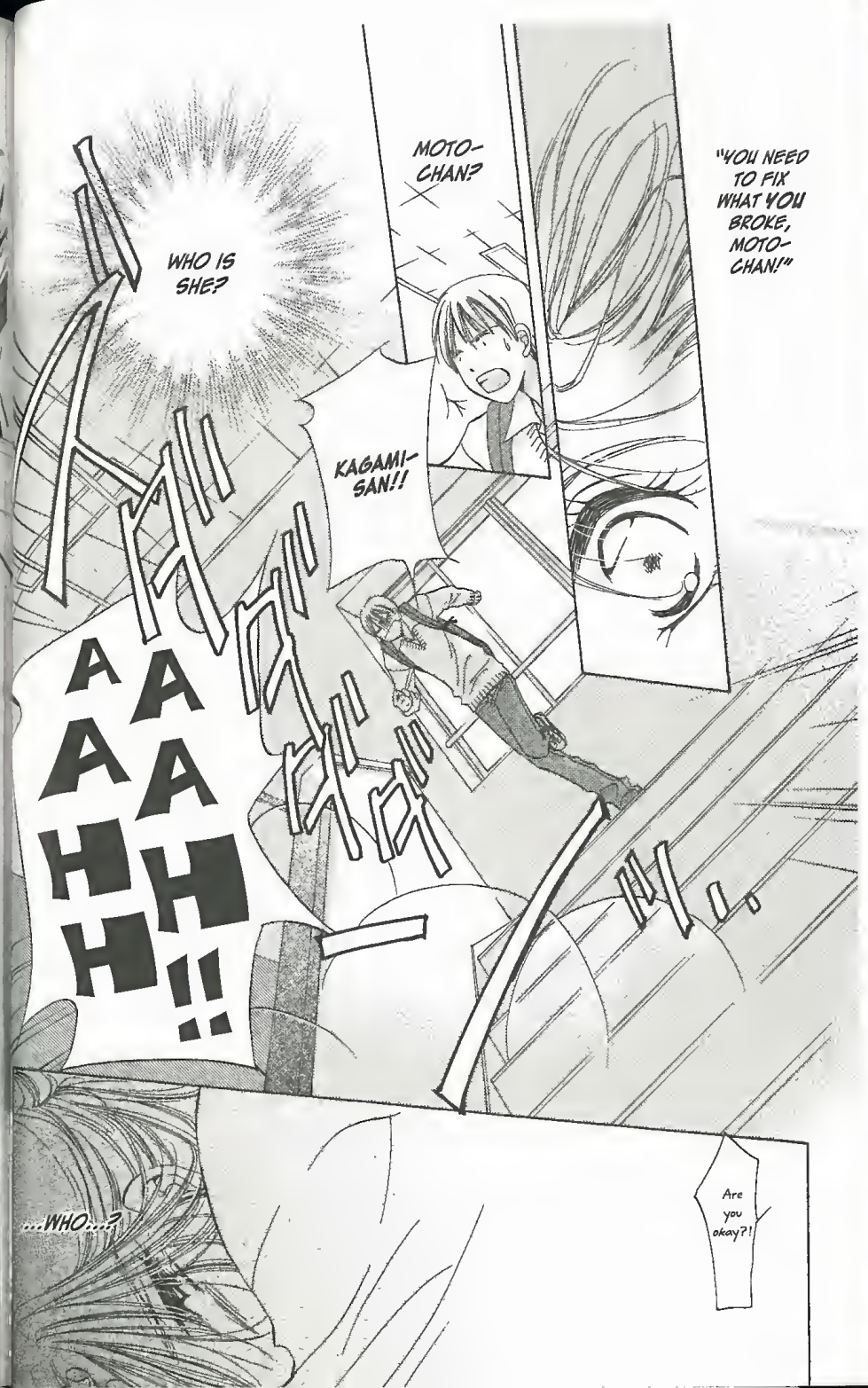
"--CHAN, HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?!"



"YOU'VE GOT...TO FIX THIS. I KNOW THAT IT WAS YOU!"




WHO?
NO...!
KANAKO!!
PLEASE... DON'T MAKE ME REMEMBER...
...YABE-SENPAI BORROWED A FRIEND'S MOTORCYCLE SO HE COULD TAKE HER HOME.
BECAUSE THE GIRL-- HER NAME IS KAGAMI-SAN-- COULDN'T WALK ON HER SPRAINED ANKLE...


"YOU NEED TO FIX WHAT YOU BROKE, MOTO-CHAN!"
MOTO-CHAN?
KAGAMI-SAN!!
WHO IS SHE?
AAAAHH!!
...WHO...?
Are you okay?!

HEY...
Shut up! I'm making a man out of him!
Fibber!
KAGURA-ZAKA?
WHAT?!
K-klak
K-klak
GAWD, WHAT A WASTE OF SPACE...
Dammit...
KAGURAZAKA-SAN! HE'S ONLY DOING THIS AS A FAVOR TO YOU.
Lighten up on the guy, okay?
TOMORROW, I'M MAKING HIM DO 80 SIT-UPS.
THAT GIRL.
SHE'S YOUR SISTER, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GETTING MAD AT ME FOR?!
SO?!
RUMPH
HA
The devil strikes!
Yikes!
BACKED INTO A CORNER ...
YEAH.

WE'VE ONLY GOT 30 SECONDS TO CATCH THE NEXT TRAIN!
Miss it and you owe me 50 sit-ups!!
WE GET THE PICTURE! LET'S SHUT UP AND ROLL!
AT LEAST, THAT WAS HIRAO-SENPAI'S SIDE OF THE STORY. HE WAS VERY FORTHCO--
WHY AM I MIXED UP IN THIS?!
PSH!
WHERE'S SEKINE-KUN?!
Owww...
Flat on his face on the stairs to the platform...
AAH!
I'm hot...
HFF
HFF
HFF
YE... HFF... YES...
MUROI, ARE YOU OKAY?
Whew.
LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT.

IT'S TIME YOU WERE STRAIGHT WITH US AND STOPPED LYING.
YABE'S ALREADY ON TO YOU. THE TRUTH IS CATCHING UP.
PROBABLY.
IF AN IDIOT LIKE YOU KNOWS, YABE SURE AS HELL DOES.
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
Geez, chill out.
DO? THERE ISN'T MUCH WE CAN DO, EXCEPT STOP YABE BEFORE HE GOES BERSERK.
KANAKO WAS WIPED CLEAN. SHE HAS NO IDEA THAT SHE EVER KNEW HIM.
NO WAY! COULD SHE REALLY FORGET HE LOVED HER?
HUH?!
WAIT A MINUTE!
NNN?
Huh? What did I--oh.
"I DON'T KNOW YOU!!"
BUT WHEN SHE SAW YABE-SENPAI...
KANAKO-SAN ISN'T DEAD. THAT MUCH WE KNOW.
Strikes again!
SHADDAP!
I SAID I'D EXPLAIN ONCE WE FOUND YABE, SO I'LL EXPLAIN ONCE WE FIND YABE! UNTIL THEN, SHUT YOUR PIE HOLES!!
Why not now?
But I'm not explaining twice!
I'M TOTALLY CONFUSED! IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK?!
HOW MUCH OF WHAT YOU SAID WERE LIES AND HOW MUCH IS TRUTH?!
k-klak
k-klak

WE CAN FIND HIM! I'VE GOT HIRAO-SENPAI HELPING ME.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT'S GOING ON, I HAVE TO TRUST YABE-SENPAI.
THANKS!
IT'LL BE OKAY.
"I'M HERE FOR YOU."
"I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP YOU AND YABE."
LET'S GET THROUGH THIS!
Is on kendo team
Don't go over-board!
I won't give up!
Was on track team
DUMB JOCKS. THEY THINK LIFE IS A SPORT.
Thanks, Senpai!
IT'D BE NICE IF IT REALLY WAS HOW YOU PLAYED THE GAME...

WAS SHE FAKING? OR WAS IT REAL?
IF SHE WAS FOR REAL, THEN THAT'D MEAN...
...THAT'D MEAN...!!
WHY DID HE--?!
WHAT THE HECK?!
WHA--
RUFFLE RUFFLE
Gyaa
AGk!
HI HEY!!

ARE THEY NICE?
HE'S NOSY...
CRAP!
IS THE PRICE OF MY RIDE AN INQUISITION?
SERIOUSLY, GUY... STALK MUCH?
I MUST SEEM TOTALLY SKEEVY!
OH!
WHOOPS, SORRY.
NICE WAY TO SAY "THANK YOU," GIRL.
...HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO RUSH TO MY SIDE.
WHEN I FELL...
THE WAY HE LOOKED AT ME...

...BUT WHEN IT COMES TO YABE'S FEELINGS...
...LOSING ISN'T AN OPTION. THERE IS NO SECOND-PLACE.
WOW.
SO, THIS IS WHERE YOU LIVE.
Y-YES... UM...
YOU ALWAYS LIVED HERE?
NO... I JUST MOVED IN A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
WITH YOUR PARENTS?
YES...?
WHY?

ARE YOU...
...HAPPY?
UM...MY PARENTS ARE ALWAYS REALLY NICE TO ME.
OH, WAIT...
...ONE MORE QUESTION.

...HE WAS SO FRIGHTENED... SO SINCERE...

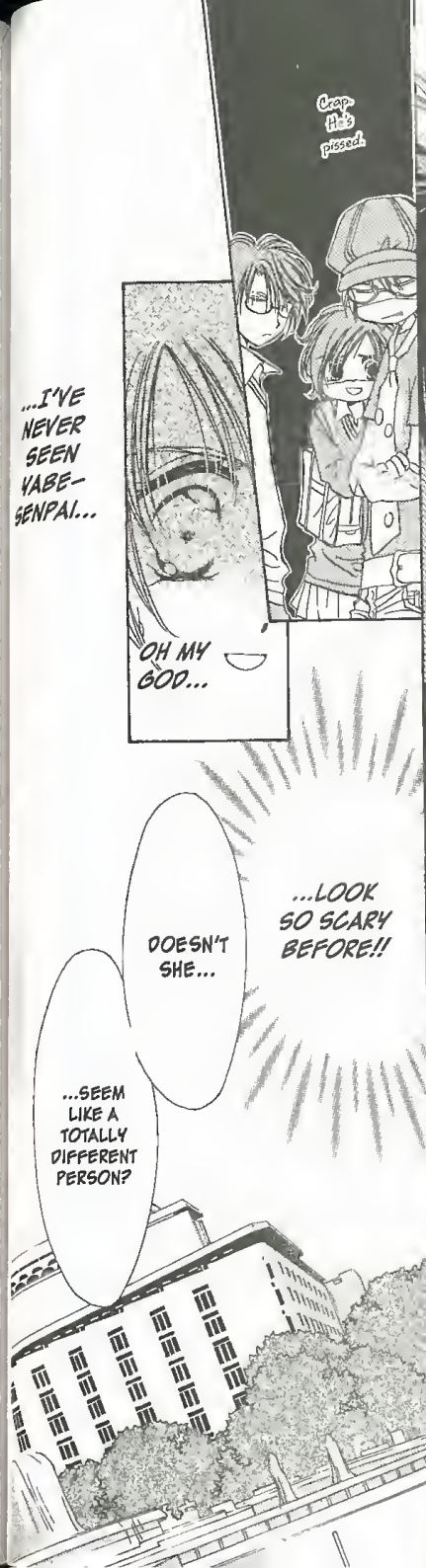
WELL, GUESS I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.
I abandoned him!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO SONOBE?
Wear this helmet. I just cleaned it, so it's not gross. I bet your school bans motorcycles.
HE JUST SWEPT ME ALONG.
IT'S HUGE
WHEN HE SAW I COULDN'T WALK, HE SAID HE'D TAKE ME HOME. HE WAS CALM BUT FIRM, LIKE IT WOULD BE SO STUPID TO SAY NO.

NOPE.
YOU JUST REMIND ME OF SOMEONE I ONCE KNEW.
BUT YOU'RE NOT HER.
SORRY TO BUG YOU WITH SO MANY QUESTIONS.
HE'S LYING!

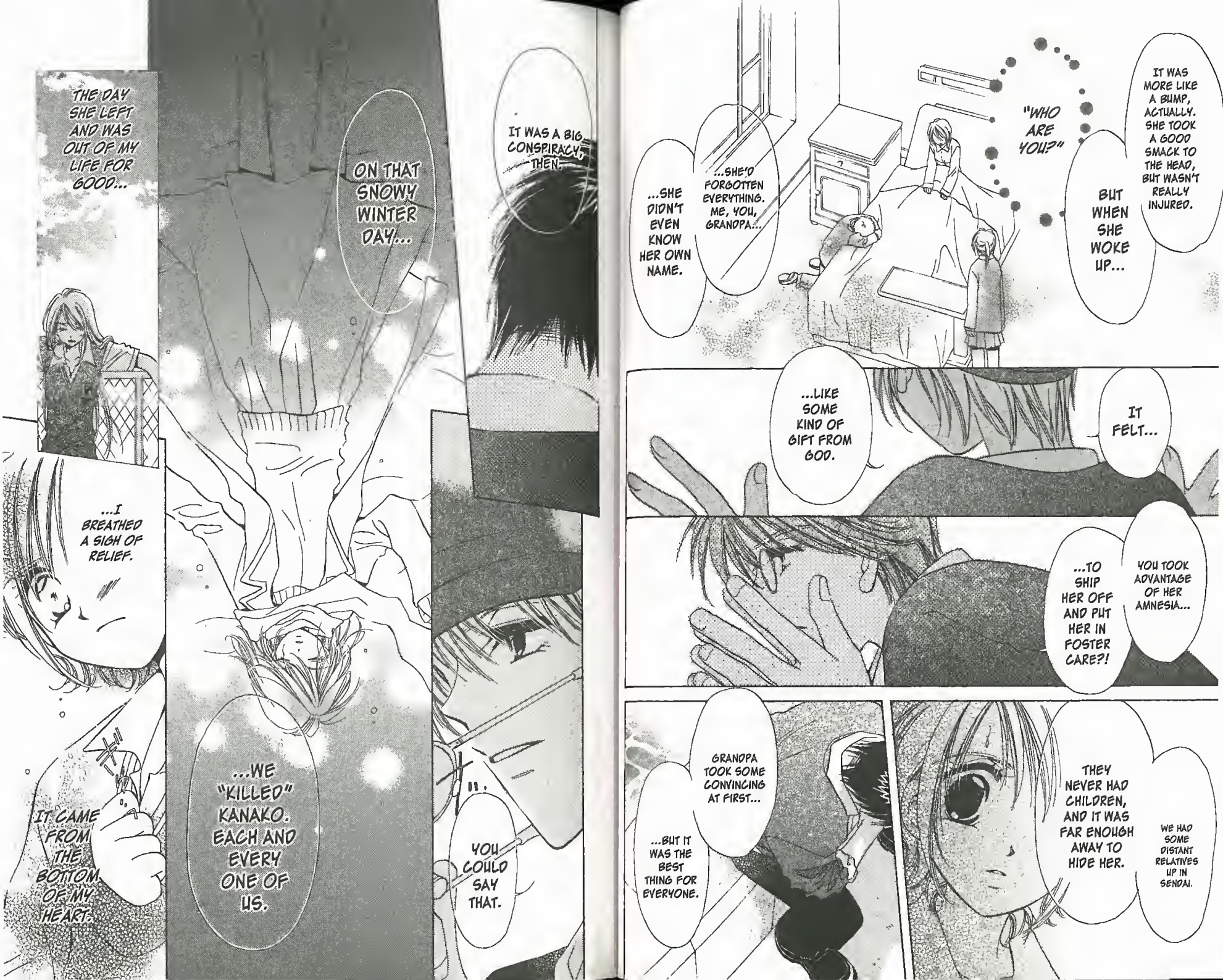
SURE, WE MOVED AROUND A LOT, AND I TEND TO GET SICK OFTEN...
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER...
HUH?
SO, YES. I'M HAPPY.
...BUT I'M OKAY WITH THAT.
...I LIVED WITH MY FAMILY IN SENDAI.
MY WHOLE WORLD WAS THERE.
NO...!
YOUR TURN...
HAVE YOU...
...EVER MET ME BEFORE? YOU KNOW, BEFORE THE FESTIVAL?
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW!
NO, DON'T! DON'T ASK!

THINGS ARE BETTER THIS WAY.
WELL...
...THE GANG'S ALL HERE!
FOR EVERYONE.
BUT... THAT'S OKAY.
...THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME HOME.
AND, YOU KNOW...
I'M SORRY ABOUT... UM...WHAT I DID TO YOU. WHEN I KICKED YOU.
WAIT!
...SO AM I.
AND...
LATER.
SOMETHING SERIOUS.
HE'S HIDING SOMETHING.
Oh...
I'll wash these sweats and get them back to you
Cool, thanks. Just drop them by Meirin.
Oh, okay.

WAS IT SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT?
"I DON'T KNOW YOU!!"
I'M GLAD YOU'VE FIGURED SOME OF IT OUT ALREADY. IT MAKES MY JOB EASIER.
IT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS NO IDEA WHO SHE REALLY IS. RIGHT?
WHAT?
OF COURSE, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
I'm not that evil!
SO, SHE REALLY DOESN'T...
YEAH.
THE DAY I GOT STABBED?
THE ROADS WERE ICY. A CAR JUMPED THE CURB AND HIT HER.
...BUT SHE HADN'T FALLEN BECAUSE SHE HAD AN ATTACK.
I REALLY DID FIND HER SPRAWLED OUT IN THE SNOW...


Crap. He's pissed.
...I'VE NEVER SEEN YABE-SENPAI...
OH MY GOD...
...LOOK SO SCARY BEFORE!!
DOESN'T SHE...
...SEEM LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON?

SOME THINGS ARE BETTER FORGOTTEN.
I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THE STORY YOU'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN THIS ONE...
...MOTOKO.


THE DAY SHE LEFT AND WAS OUT OF MY LIFE FOR GOOD...
ON THAT SNOWY WINTER DAY...
IT WAS A BIG CONSPIRACY, THEN.
...I BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF.
IT CAME FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
...WE "KILLED" KANAKO. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
"WHO ARE YOU?"
IT WAS MORE LIKE A BUMP, ACTUALLY. SHE TOOK A GOOD SMACK TO THE HEAD, BUT WASN'T REALLY INJURED.
BUT WHEN SHE WOKE UP...
...SHE'D FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING. ME, YOU, GRANDPA...
...SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HER OWN NAME.
IT FELT...
...LIKE SOME KIND OF GIFT FROM GOD.
YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HER AMNESIA...
...TO SHIP HER OFF AND PUT HER IN FOSTER CARE?!
GRANDPA TOOK SOME CONVINCING AT FIRST...
...BUT IT WAS THE BEST THING FOR EVERYONE.
THEY NEVER HAD CHILDREN, AND IT WAS FAR ENOUGH AWAY TO HIDE HER.
WE HAD SOME DISTANT RELATIVES UP IN SENDAI.

I NEVER THOUGHT GRAMPS WOULD GET SO SENILE HE'D TRANSFER THE FAMILY BACK TO TOKY--
MEIRIN
?!
YABE-SENPAI?!
OH, GOD...
HA! SOMEONE THINKS HIGHLY OF HIMSELF.
"I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON YOU THINK I AM."
I DID IT FOR ME. I WAS SICK OF HER CRAP!
AND YOU DID ALL THAT FOR ME?
IF YOU WERE FOOLED...
...IT'S YOUR OWN DAMN FAULT. YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW!
Motomi
slump
sigh
WHY DOES KAGURAZAKA-SAN ALWAYS CAST HERSELF AS THE VILLAIN?
LET'S GO, YURI.
HUH?!
WHAT?!
WELL? GET GOING!
CHASE AFTER THAT DUMB BOY-FRIEND OF YOURS.
What should I...?
Shoo! Shoo!

WHAT?!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...YOU'RE A LOT MORE BUTCH THAN MOST MEN I KNOW.
...IF HE'D LET YOU GO, YOU'D BE STUCK WITH THE SELF-HATRED THAT'S LODGED IN YOUR HEART.
YURI ...
HUH?!
...YOU KNOW WHAT? I CAN'T IMAGINE A BETTER PERSON FOR ME THAN YOU!
THE NEXT DAY, YABE-SENPAI'S HAIR WAS BLONDE AGAIN.

...SO DENSE SOMETIMES. LIKE SHE HASN'T A CLUE.
UM... HIRAO-SENPAI, COULD YOU PLEASE...
...TAKE CARE OF KAGURAZAKA-SAN FOR ME?
HONESTLY. SHE CAN BE SO...
Scram, losers!
WE'LL BE FINE.
Go.
I COOLED IT WITH SOME WATER.
HERE.
IF HE HADN'T...
NO, HE'S LUCKY. IF HE'D SLAPPED ME, I'D HAVE HIT BACK.
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD HE USED HIS FISTS ON YOU.
Ow

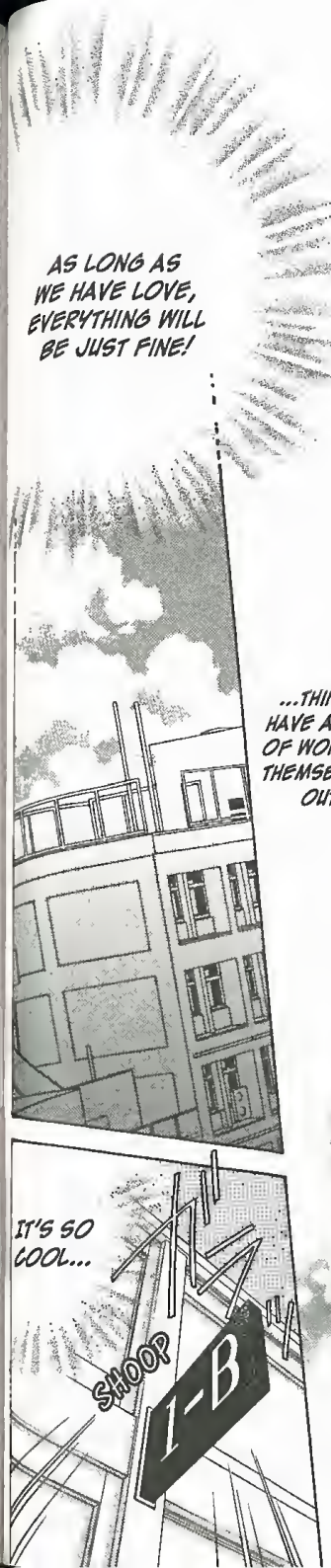
Gatcha Gacha

A LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS A GIRL WHOM YABE-SENPAI LOVED VERY, VERY MUCH.
HER NAME WAS KANAKO.
ONE DAY, KANAKO-SAN LOST ALL OF HER MEMORIES. AS A PERSON, SHE STARTED OVER FROM SCRATCH.
BUT EVEN IF SHE FORGOT, YABE-SENPAI COULD NOT.
"YURI, YOU KNOW WHAT? I CAN'T IMAGINE A BETTER PERSON FOR ME THAN YOU!"

ES (IX)

It's a film inspired by a true story about a research experiment that Stanford University students conducted on prisoners back during World War II. It's pretty ironic that Germany would be the country to make a movie about an American experiment on the effects of Nazi cruelty.
The movie itself...is really, really freaking scary. I also went out and found copies of the written reports from the experiment to read, and man, were they depressing. To think that perfectly normal people could change so much due to variables in their environment.

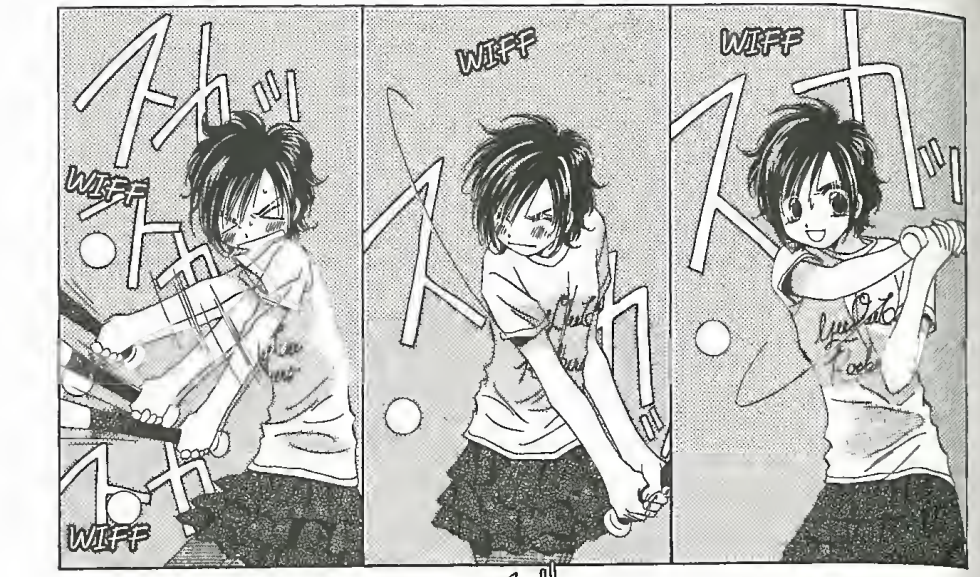
ES is still a movie, however, so it's not exactly what happened, but it feels pretty realistic. People who like to believe that human beings are inherently good probably shouldn't watch it. I'd suggest it only to people who would see it as either simple entertainment or a cautionary tale.



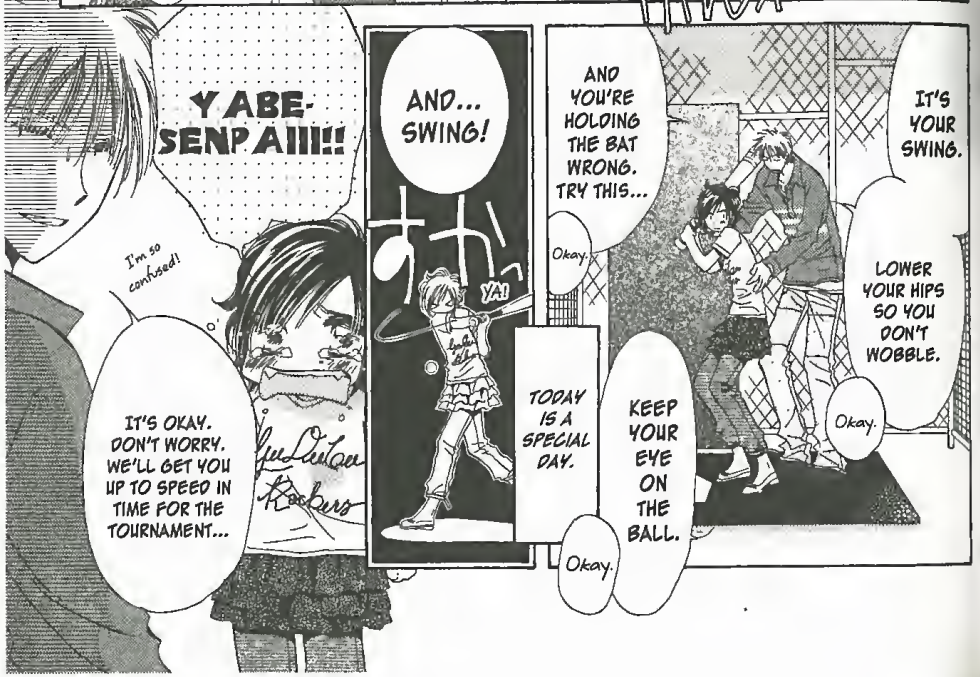
NOT KANAKO-SAN. NOT ANYONE ELSE. ME.

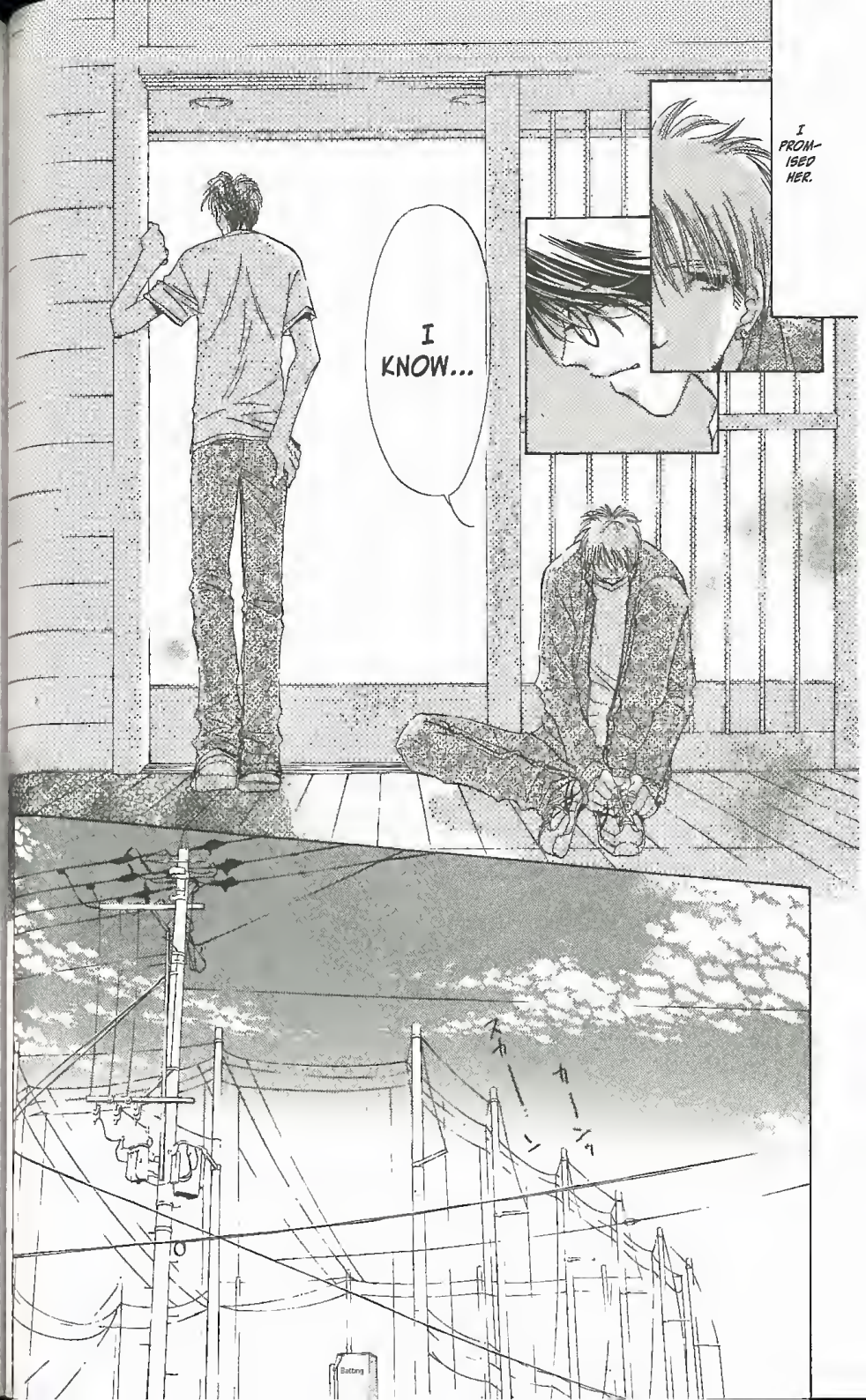
LOOK, I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE CHEERING FOR ME AND ALL...
...BUT COULD YOU PLEASE TONE IT DOWN A LITTLE?
"YOU'RE WRECKING OUR CONCENTRATION. DO US A FAVOR AND GO AWAY!"
H-HIRAO...
Don't be hasty...
THEY DON'T BOTHER US... REALLY...
HIRAO...?
DUDE, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
You've totally changed...
S I I I I G H
THANKS.
FOR ME?
NOD NOD NOD NOD NOD NOD
こくこくこくこくこくこく
whew...
THAT WAS SOOO COOL!!!
HIRAO-SENPAI!!
You totally rock!!
DO IT AGAIN!!
GLARE
HURK
You noisy ditzes are throwing him off!
See?!
Oops..
Uh-oh.

"HE DID CHOOSE YOU, AFTER ALL."
IF YOU BETRAY MUROI...
...I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET IT.
"Y-YOU THINK SO...?"
WHAT COULD HAVE...
...INSPIRED HIM TO THAW OUT?
WHAT'S UP, MAN?
HE'S BEEN NICER TO EVERYONE LATELY, BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING...
ALL RIGHT! HUSTLE UP, GUYS!
You're late, dude!
Sorry, man.
FWEET
HA HA HA HA. YEAH. HE'S STILL KIND OF DISTANT...
...BUT HE'S DEFINITELY WARMED UP. HE WAS VERY POLITE.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIRAO-SENPAI?
He was nice...
YEAH. USUALLY HE'S COLD AND DISTANT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE?
...INSTEAD OF COLD, HE'S KIND OF COOL.
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I DEFINITELY LIKE IT.


WIFF
WIFF
WIFF
WIFF

What a spaz!
Yuri...
Take it easy!
WIFF
WIFF
WIFF
WIFF
WIFF
GRAAAA


YABE-SENPAIII!!
I'm so confused!
IT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY. WE'LL GET YOU UP TO SPEED IN TIME FOR THE TOURNAMENT...
AND... SWING!
YA!
TODAY IS A SPECIAL DAY.
Okay.
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL.
Okay.
AND YOU'RE HOLDING THE BAT WRONG. TRY THIS...
Okay.
IT'S YOUR SWING.
LOWER YOUR HIPS SO YOU DON'T WOBBLE.
Okay.


I PROMISED HER.
I KNOW...
Batting

HE'S BEEN MARKING ME AT EVERY PRACTICE. TODAY HE CAME AFTER ME LIKE I'D KILLED HIS PARENTS OR SOMETHING.
HUH?
HE DID?
She's grouchy. A rare sight!
YOU'RE PLAYING BASKETBALL AT THE TOURNAMENT AGAIN THIS YEAR, RIGHT?
LUCKY! YOU'RE THE REIGNING POINT KING. LAST YEAR YOU SCORED WAY MORE POINTS THAN ANYONE...
WELL, I'M NOT COUNTING ON A REPEAT. HIRAO'S BUSTING HIS BUTT SO HE CAN TAKE ME DOWN.
Depressed Yuri
ごん ごん
...what the...?
THAT AMUSES YOU?
!!!
KLANG KLANG
cackle cackle
EVIL GRIN
cackle
NYA HA...
NYA HA HA HA HA...
HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN.
"I'M HERE FOR YOU, MUROI."
HIRAO-SENPAI IS KEEPING HIS PROMISE.
HUH?
I'M NOT TELLING!

YABE-SENPAI'S HELPING ME TRAIN TO COMPETE IN THE BALL GAMES TOURNAMENT.
IF I DON'T GET ANY BETTER, I'M JUST GOING TO DRAG THE REST OF MY TEAM DOWN!
Can I really do this?!
PARTICIPATING IN: SOFTBALL
IT'S FINE. YOU DON'T COMPLETELY SUCK. NOT EVERY ATHLETIC PERSON IS GOOD AT EVERY GAME.
A LOT OF SPORTY PEOPLE STINK AT BASEBALL.
I wonder why...
UM...YURI? AREN'T THOSE INSULTS FLYING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?
YOU'RE, LIKE, SUPER GIFTED AT EVERY SPORT EVER INVENTED. I MEAN, YOU WERE THE TOP KENDO CHAMP, RIGHT?
NOT EVEN HIRAO-SENPAI COULD TOUCH YOU.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, YABE-SENPAI...
mutter
Black Yuri...
Maybe I could steal them!
HUFF
YEAH, BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT FIRST HITTING THE BALL.
RUNNING!
IF I COULD JUST RUN THE BASES, I'D BE AWESOME!

So, Kanako-san is alive after all. When did you figure it out, dear reader? I heard some people out there knew as soon as they read the flashback in volume 3.
Kanako-san is extremely emotional and pretty haughty and self-centered, so I'm afraid the young lady readers out there aren't going to like her...
She's really not that bad a person... I don't think...
Oh, by the way, after she lost her memories, it also affected her sense of fashion.
Even without your memories, you're still one thick-skinned lady...

BATHUMP
N-No way! Seriously?!

I don't mind if my boyfriend gets possessive!
I kinda like it!
Why doesn't he come out and say it?

Yabe-senpai!

I want senpai to keep me for himself.
C'mon, please?
I belong to you!

You know, Hirao-senpai is really a nice guy.
Well... true to his word, at least.
Klang klang
.....
Don't...
...rely too much on Hirao, okay?
Yuri.
Hm?

?!
...? O-okay...

Wait...! Does this mean...
...Yabe-senpai is jealous?!

KOFF
KOFF KOFF
KOFF
KOFF KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
Line drive..
.....
SENPAI?
IS THAT REALLY ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY TO ME?
REALLY?!
WHAT ?!
KOFF
COUGH-I--
KOFF
KOFF
I REALLY CAN'T... STOP...
KOFF
N-NO...
COULD IT BE A COLD?
げぼげぼ
YOU POOR THING! I'M SO SORRY!
NO WAY!

A YOUNG MAIDEN'S HEART RAGES IN THE TOTALLY WRONG DIRECTION..
HER ALWAYS LEANING ON HIM IS REALLY UNFAIR TO THE SORRY BASTARD.
POOR HIRAO...
If he could just show his feelings more..
Yeow! Watch it!
SWISH
SWISH
KLANG
YABE-SENPAI?
SMILE
I LOVE YOU.

MEXI
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...
KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN?!
THAT'S MY LINE!!
WHAT?!
ARE YOU PLAYING IN THE TOURNAMENT, TOO?!
BWA HA HA HA!
YEP. I'M THE PITCHER.
NOOOO! I'M SO DEAD!

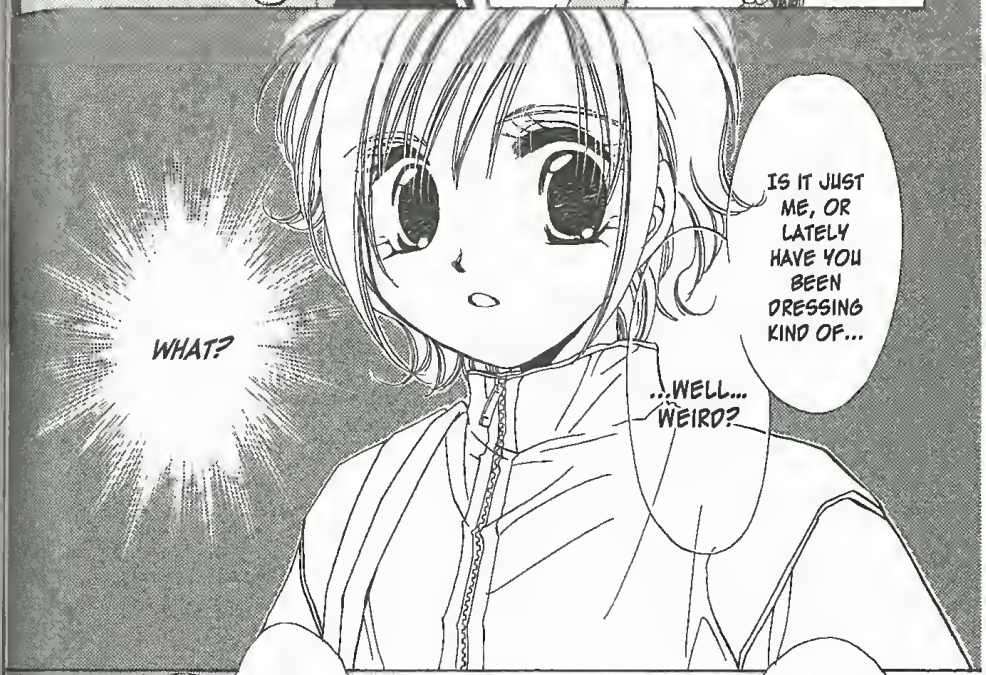
FROM THE SOUND OF THOSE CRACKS, SOMEBODY'S BELTING OUT SOME GOOD HITS.
They've been at it for a while, too.
DUDE, THAT GUY'S AWESOME!
HE HASN'T MISSED ONE YET!
KLANG
You sound old!
SENPAI!
KOFF
SORRY... KEFF...
BE FINE... KOFF... IN A SEC...
NAH...IT'S REALLY NOTHING.
EVEN SO...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO SEE A DOCTOR...
KLANG
MEXICAN
DAMMIT.
Off...

MAYBE SO, BUT DO YOU HAVE TO GO SO BUTCH?
WHO...? KANAKO-SAN?!
THINK ABOUT IT. THERE'S A CRAZY LADY ON THE LOOSE THAT MAY NOT LIKE SEEING THE NORMAL ME.
Like sunglasses and hats and stuff...
...MORE LIKE, DISGUISES.
But! out
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO CRITICIZE THE WAY I DRESS.
DING!
X-CAN

SHE WASN'T LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW.

BOY, GIRL, IT DIDN'T MATTER.
THAT'S NOT THE WAY SHE LOOKED AT YOU, AND YOU KNOW IT.

That reminds me...
REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE KIDS AND YOU TOOK ON THE LOCAL LITTLE LEAGUE'S STAR HITTER AND STRUCK HIM OUT?
THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY. IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
YES, IT DOES!
I MEAN, YOU'VE ONLY GOTTEN BETTER SINCE, RIGHT?!
WHAT?
MOTOKO...
Why are you so competitive?!

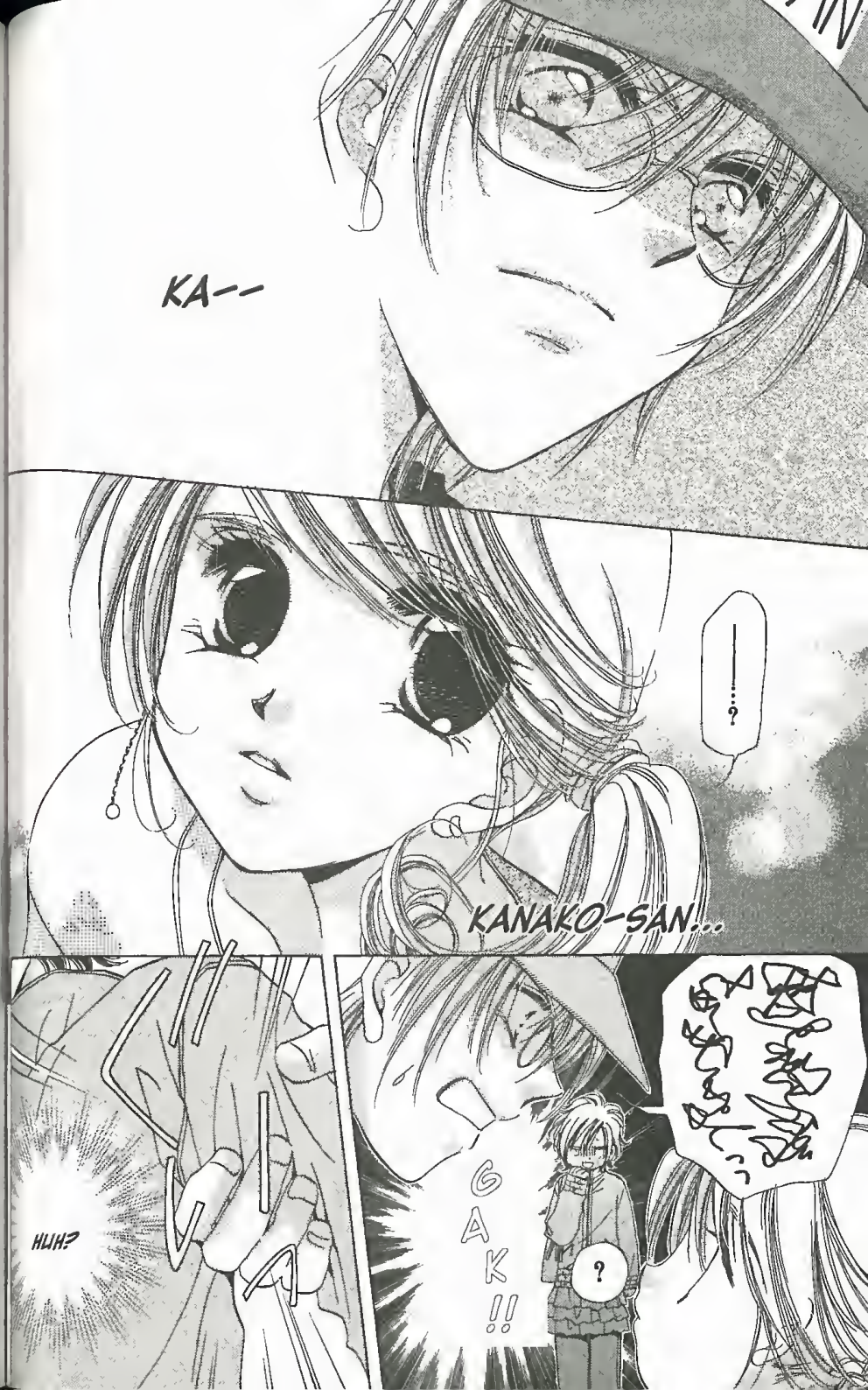

WHAT?
IS IT JUST ME, OR LATELY HAVE YOU BEEN DRESSING KIND OF...
...WELL... WEIRD?
I KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS LIKED WEARING BOYS' CLOTHES...
...BUT YOU SEEM TO BE UPPING THE ANTE.
YOUR OUTFITS ARE STARTING TO LOOK...

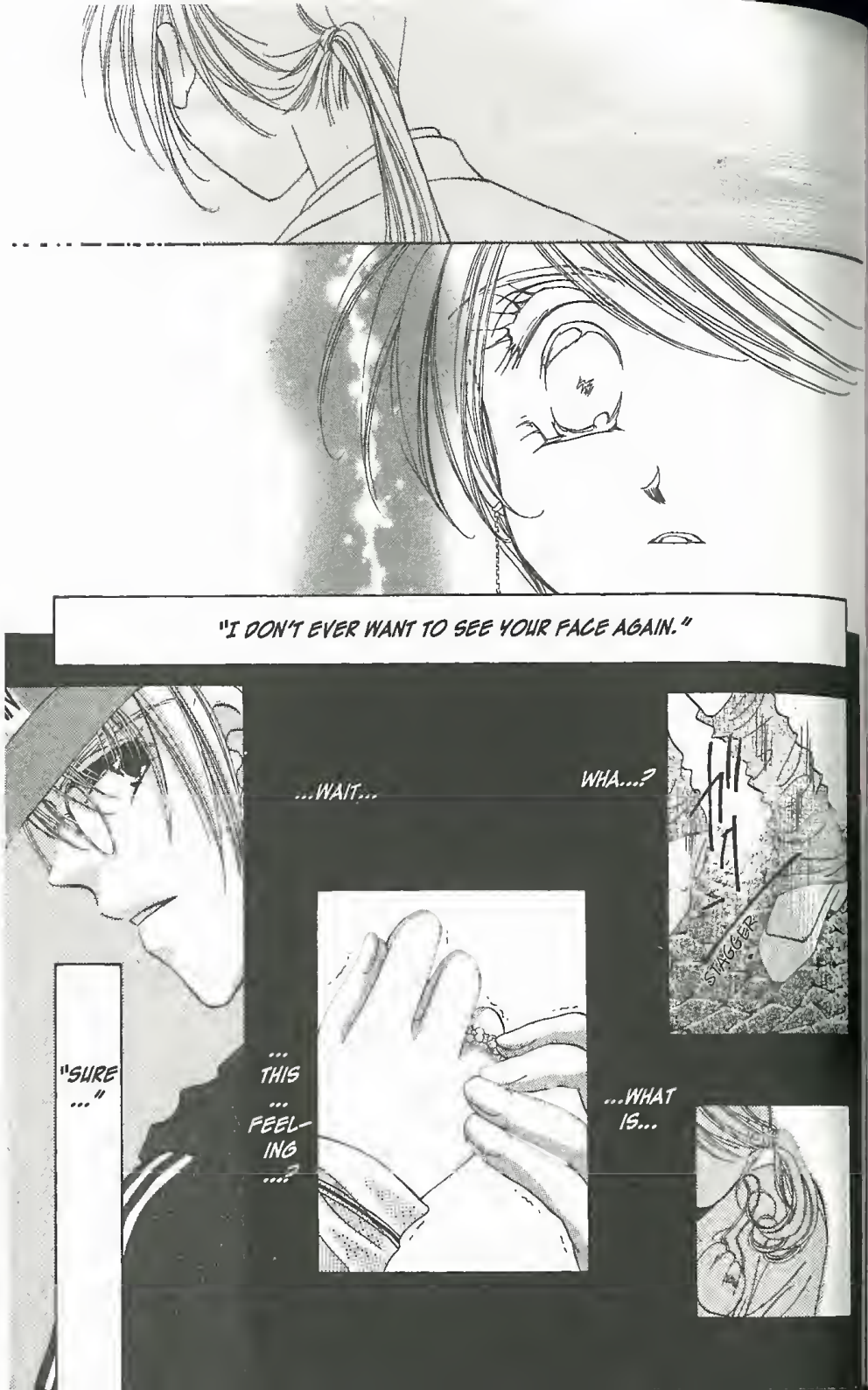
STOP FOLLOWING ME!
KAGURAZAKA-SAN! CALM DOWN!
You'll kill our teen rating!
BRING IT ON, YOU [CENSORED] !!!
H-HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
...HUH?
C'mon, you wuss!!
WHAT?!
A PRETTY THING LIKE YOU CAN'T COME AROUND HERE AND NOT EXPECT SOME... ATTENTION. HEH HEH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT"?
I'VE HEARD THAT VOICE BEFORE...
BITCH!
GET LOST...
YEEK!
SHOVE
I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
NO, I DID NOT KNOW!
I WAS JUST WALKING HOME! LEMME GO!
Hmph.
SHUT YOUR HOLE!
NO WAY...
C'MON. YOU KNOW WHY CHICKS COME HERE.
QUIT BEING A TEASE.
MEXICAN
YOU BASTARD!
YOU WANNA PICK A FIGHT? BECAUSE I'LL GIVE YOU ONE!!
MEXICAN
N-NO! KAGURAZAKA-SAN...!
I KNEW YOU AND I'D HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS BETWEEN US ONE OF THESE DAYS!
.....
BUT THE DAYS OF YOU GETTING FREE HITS ARE OVER!!
YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW...
YABE...
...SENPAI...?
...EVERYTHING YOU DO IS ENTIRELY POINTLESS.
SURE, SHE MAY HAVE LOST ALL HER MEMORIES...
...BUT I AM SURE THERE ARE SOME THINGS SHE'LL ALWAYS RECOGNIZE.

...THANK YOU...
...FOR HELPING ME.
GOD! LISTENING TO SCUMBAGS LIKE YOU DRIVES ME NUTS!!
UM... KAGURAZAKA-SAN...
CONSIDER THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU BEFORE YOU START BIRD-DOGGING, CREEP!
YOU'RE HOLDING --
KAGURAZAKA-SAN...WAIT...
UMM...

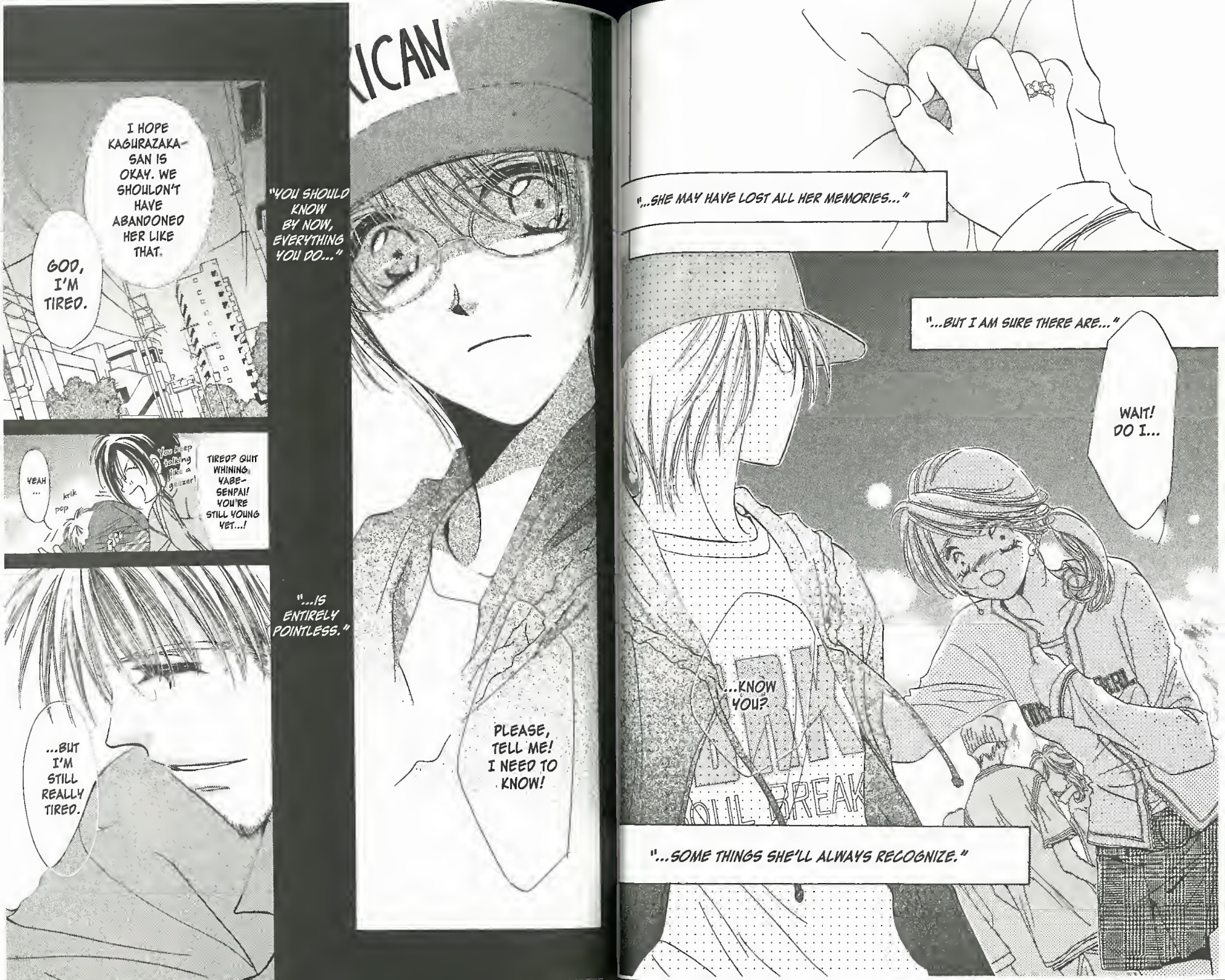
LOOK OUT!
WOK
WHY WOULD AN UGLY TURD LIKE YOU EVEN APPROACH A GIRL LIKE THIS?!
No mercy!
splat

Shouldn't we help?
HUH?
BUT...
YABE-SENPAI?
SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
COME ON.
LET'S GO.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YABE-SENPAI?
OH... OKAY.
Oh, dear.


KA--
KANAKO-SAN...
?
GAK!!
?
HUH?


"I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN."
"SURE ..."
...WAIT...
WHA...?
STAGGER
... THIS ... FEEL-ING ...?
...WHAT IS...

...AND KAGURAZAKA-SAN WILL DO?
...KANAKO-SAN...
UM...
Plus, the goatee...
?
NO, IT'S SOMEONE ELSE. HE'S NOT BLONDE.
...CAN I HAVE MY ARM BACK NOW?
WHAT DOES HE THINK...
LATER.
OH...! SORRY.
A little rough... though...
bthump bthump
BUT...
GIRL.
THAT BOY SURE WAS PRETTY ...

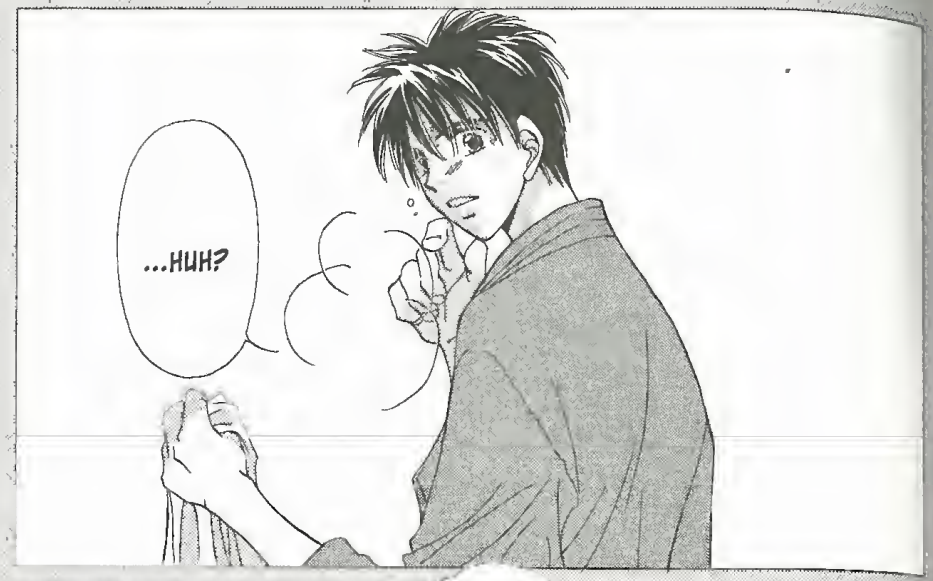

I HOPE KAGURAZAKA-SAN IS OKAY. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ABANDONED HER LIKE THAT.
GOD, I'M TIRED.
"YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW, EVERYTHING YOU DO..."
YEAH ...
krik
pop
You keep talking like a geezer!
TIRED? QUIT WHINING, YABE-SENPAI! YOU'RE STILL YOUNG YET...!
"...IS ENTIRELY POINTLESS."
...BUT I'M STILL REALLY TIRED.
PLEASE, TELL ME! I NEED TO KNOW!
"...SHE MAY HAVE LOST ALL HER MEMORIES..."
"...BUT I AM SURE THERE ARE..."
WAIT! DO I...
...KNOW YOU?
"...SOME THINGS SHE'LL ALWAYS RECOGNIZE."

FEEL...
...BETTER?

I KNOW A TON OF PROBLEMS...
WOO-HOO!
Aw ha ha ha ha ha!
YES, MA'AM.
God, she's so cute..

kiss
WELL...
...THEN I'M GOING TO HAVE TO USE A SPECIAL TRICK TO PERK YOU UP AGAIN.
HN?

Gatcha Gacha



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'VE EVER FIXED JEWELRY?
And what kind of "treasures" would you have?
YOU'RE GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS. HELP ME.
...HAS TAKEN ALL OF MY TREASURES HOSTAGE UNTIL I PUT THIS RING BACK TOGETHER.
THESE BEADS USED TO BE A RING. KANAKO, THE LITTLE WENCH...

I DON'T CARE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, OR HOW-- JUST FIND ME THE WEAK LINK.
STICK WITH HER.
YESSIR.
I THINK I'VE PICKED UP ONE OF THE TRAILS. THAT GIRL...
She's connected.
...ARE WAITING JUST OVER THE HORIZON.
Hey, waiter! An iced coffee!
Comin' up.
YABE AND HIS DYKE THUG ARE GOING TO PAY!
I'M GOING TO GET THEM, I SWEAR!

LONG TIME NO SEE.

WITH LOVE ON OUR SIDE, WE CAN'T LOSE!
UNGH... I FEEL LIKE CRAP.
SICK
Ugh...
Oh my!
My heart racing in ye' another wrong direction...
With a new wig this time!
YOU'RE STILL SO RED!
TEE HEE HEE! YABE-SENPAI!
WE'LL OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE.

ALL THOSE DAMN LITTLE BEADS LOOK ALIKE TO ME!
WELL, I SURE AS HELL CAN'T!!
Can't get that stupid string through the little holes!
I GUESS I SHOULD GIVE IT A TRY...
I BARELY TOUCHED THAT CHINTZY PIECE OF CRAP AND IT FELL APART!
Dammit!

Monrovia Public Library

Bad Taste

I'm not really recommending this movie, I just feel like going off on a tangent about it for a minute.

Nothing wrong with being cheap.

This was the directorial debut for Peter Jackson, the guy who did the *Lord of the Rings* movies. (It's really ancient, so it's pretty cheap.) It's a very well done film, even though it's a C-grade gross-out horror flick on the bottom end of the low-budget scale. Apparently Mr. Jackson paid for the whole thing out of his own pocket. You can find his little personal touches all over the movie. (Because, well, he made literally everything on the set himself! From the mansion miniature to the special make-up...everything!) All the "actors" in it are his friends, and he even plays two roles himself.

You know, that whole "no money" thing.

Even in his later directorial efforts, if he ever went over budget, he paid for the extra costs with his own money. When he had to, he took out loans in his own name! How devoted is that? Yeesh! I've never seen anyone that nuts for movies. All the more reason to like him!

What would he have done if *LotR* flopped?

By the way, I still don't own Mr. Jackson's *Braindead* (a.k.a. *Dead Alive* in the US). Somebody please give me a copy!! (I can't find it anywhere!)

MEXICAN
WHO ARE YOU? I FEEL LIKE...
...I KNOW YOU.
!
BUT, NO...
THAT'S NOT ALL.
"I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE."
I...I REALLY THINK...
OH, NO...
NO! I'M NOT!
ARE YOU HITTING ON ME?
WALKED RIGHT INTO THAT ONE...

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW DANGEROUS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN FOR ME, STUCK THERE ALONE WITH HER?!
GRRRRR!
YEEEEEk! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!!
LIKE YOU WOULDN'T GET MORE ANGRY IF I DIDN'T ASK!
OH, YOU DIDN'T WANT TO HANG, BUT YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? REALLY?
Hmm?
W-WHY? D-DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
IT'S NOT ENOUGH?
REALLY? THAT'S ALL THAT WENT DOWN?
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME SHE'S...
SHE ASKED ME IF I KNEW HER.

I'M...S-SORRY...
.....
BYE.
YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

MEXICAN
MY GIRL-FRIEND'S WAITING.
HUH ...?
...I'VE NEVER MET YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE.
I MUST SOUND COMPLETELY WHACKO.
I-I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
...I THINK I'M GOING TO CRY.
WHATEVER. IF YOU'RE DONE, I'LL BE GOING.
AND JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR...
O-OH...
...I SEE.

mumble
DID SHE REALLY THINK YABE WAS "IN HER WAY"?
HUH?
...SHE DIDN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE SHE WAS THAT MEAN.
IT'S JUST...
WAS THAT REALLY HER ONLY "REASON" FOR STABBING YABE-SENPAI?
SHUT UP. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HER.
LISTEN TO ME!
YO!!!
haah
haah
SHE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO ONLY SEES HER OWN MISERY.
SHE'S SO POSSESSIVE, SHE MIGHT KILL ANYBODY SHE THINKS IS IN HER WAY.

OH. OKAY. SORRY.
NEVER FEAR! EVERYTHING'LL TURN OUT OKAY.
Kagurazaka-san practice?
HELL NO!
I JUST MADE THAT UP!
I was trying to get rid of her!
HOW?!
WELL, NO...BUT I CAN'T HELP BEING CURIOUS.
slump
SERIOUSLY...? THAT CAN'T BE THE ONLY THING YOU GOT OUT OF THAT STORY.

SO LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY, YOU DON'T GIVE A FART ABOUT THE REST OF US, DO YOU?!
BITCH!
...YABE-SENPAI'S LOVE FOR ME WILL NEVER, EVER CHANGE!
BECAUSE EVEN IF KANAKO-SAN'S MEMORIES DO COME BACK...
THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY. I MEAN, JUST YESTERDAY...

...IT'LL BE A WORLD OF TROUBLE FOR ALL OF US.
SERIOUSLY...
ALL JOKES ASIDE, IF KANAKO EVER DOES REMEMBER HER PAST...
SHE AIN'T LISTENING.
I couldn't sleep last night!
...WE HAD OUR FIRST KISS!
bitmap
Dammit.
SHE'S GONE GA-GA!
bitmap
bitmap
Liar. You kissed him.

YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW EASILY A PERSON'S FEELINGS CAN CHANGE.
Yuri, sorry, but...
Yuri, I'm sorry..."
"Sorry, Yuri..."
IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME.
THEIR REASONS WERE ALWAYS DIFFERENT. SOMETIMES IT WAS MY FAULT, AND SOMETIMES THEY JUST HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.
For some weird reason, they always apologize to her.
SO, YOU'RE SAYING...

NO, I TRUST HIM COMPLETELY.
...THAT SOMEWHERE, DEEP IN YOUR HEART, YOU DON'T TRUST YABE?

REALLY, I MEAN IT.
WHAT?!

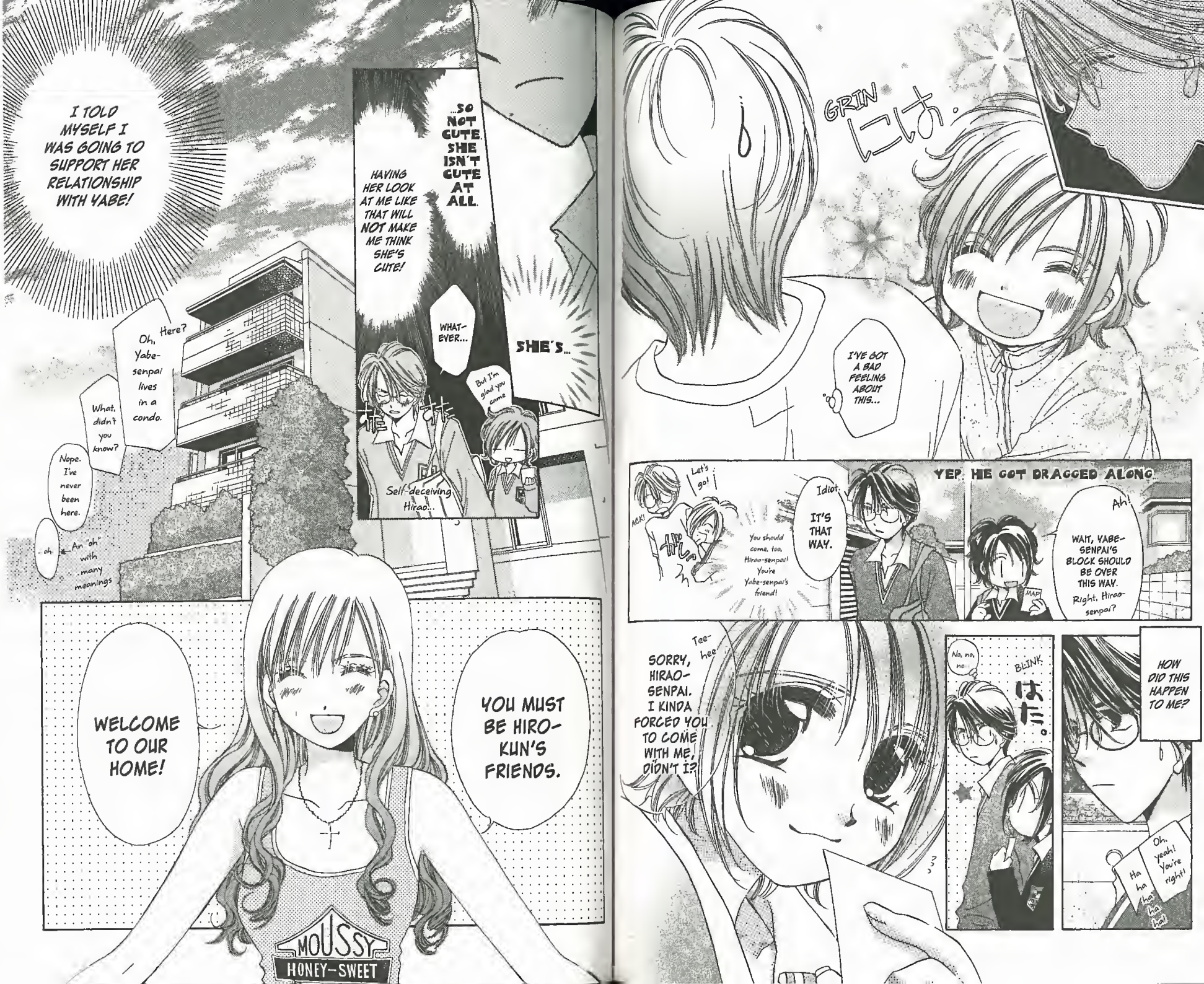
YOU KNOW...
...UP UNTIL NOW, I NEVER KNEW THAT MUCH ABOUT ANY OF MY BOYFRIENDS.
I KNOW MORE THAN YOU DO, THAT'S FOR SURE.
Booo!
YEAH, LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT KANAKO-SAN, EITHER.
.....

EVERY TIME, I FELL HEAD OVER HEELS AND THOUGHT THAT I'D FINALLY FOUND THE ONE I'D SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH.
EVEN THOUGH WHEN I WAS GOING OUT WITH THEM, I THOUGHT I DID.

IT WAS A TOUGH WAY TO REALIZE I DIDN'T KNOW NEARLY AS MUCH ABOUT THEM AS I THOUGHT.
"SORRY, YURI..."
BUT THEN THEY'D CHEAT ON ME, AND EVERYTHING WOULD FALL APART.

"I LOVE YOU."
THAT MOMENT...
YABE-SENPAI WON'T BETRAY ME. OUR LOVE IS TOO POWERFUL.
...GIVES ME ALL THE STRENGTH I NEED TO TRIUMPH.
BECAUSE ONCE A COUPLE SHARES THEIR GREATEST MOMENT...
...THEN THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN RUIN IT.
COMPLETE TRUST ONLY TAKES THAT ONE, SINGLE MOMENT.
DID YOU TWO HAVE ONE, KAGURAZAKA-SAN?
HAVE ONE WHAT?
THOUGH, SOMETIMES ALL I COULD SEE WAS THAT MOMENT, AND I MISSED THAT THE GUY WAS CATTING AROUND.
SHE'LL NEVER LEARN...
Dysfunctional lover
HA HA HA HA
STAY THE COURSE, THEN, IF YOU WANT IT SO BAD.
Ah, well
What? You sound like an apathetic old man
Hmm? Kagurazaka-san!
Right! Coming!
Kagurazaka-san!

A "GREATEST MOMENT." YOU AND KANAKO-SAN.
YABE?
HE'S HAD A COLD FOR A COUPLE DAYS, AND THE IDIOT WENT AND MADE IT WORSE.
WHAT?! FOR REAL?!
HE'S ACTUALLY BEEN BUCKLING DOWN IN CLASS LATELY...
Maybe Hirao likes Yabe after all...
TOTALLY!
I'M SURE HE'D RATHER YOU DELIVERED THEM THAN ME, MUROI. DON'T YOU THINK?
...SO I THOUGHT HE MIGHT NEED TODAY'S NOTES.
OKAY. COME BY LATER FOR MY NOTES AND TODAY'S WORKSHEETS --
I'D BE THRILLED!
THOUGHT SO.
HUH?
ARE YOU GOING TO GO VISIT HIM?
I had no idea it was that bad...
OH, YEAH... YABE-SENPAI DID LOOK KINDA OUT OF IT YESTERDAY.
NO WAY !!
He's indestructible!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
I HEARD HE'S HAD A FEVER SINCE YESTERDAY.
wobble
YABE-SENPAI... BEDRIDDEN? BUT THAT'S... THAT'S... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!


I TOLD MYSELF I WAS GOING TO SUPPORT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH YABE!
Oh, Here?
Yabe-senpai lives in a condo.
What, didn't you know?
Nope. I've never been here.
oh
An "oh" with many meanings
...SO NOT CUTE. SHE ISN'T CUTE AT ALL.
HAVING HER LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT WILL NOT MAKE ME THINK SHE'S CUTE!
WHAT-EVER...
But I'm glad you came
SHE'S...
Self-deceiving Hirao...
WELCOME TO OUR HOME!
YOU MUST BE HIRO-KUN'S FRIENDS.
MOUSSY
HONEY-SWEET
GRIN
には。
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
YEP. HE GOT DRAGGED ALONG.
Let's go!
ACK!
You should come, too, Hirao-senpai! You're Yabe-senpai's friend!
Idiot.
IT'S THAT WAY.
Ah!
WAIT, YABE-SENPAI'S BLOCK SHOULD BE OVER THIS WAY. Right, Hirao-senpai?
MAP!
SORRY, HIRAO-SENPAI. I KINDA FORCED YOU TO COME WITH ME, DIDN'T I?
Tee-hee
No, no, no
BLINK
はた。
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME?
Oh, yeah! You're right!
Ha ha ha ha ha!

*WARNING: Spoilers ahead. Read this AFTER finishing this chapter.

This mystery lady is Yabe's mother. His family is (also?) pretty unusual. I intend to delve into their history sometime during the story, so I won't say that much about it here.

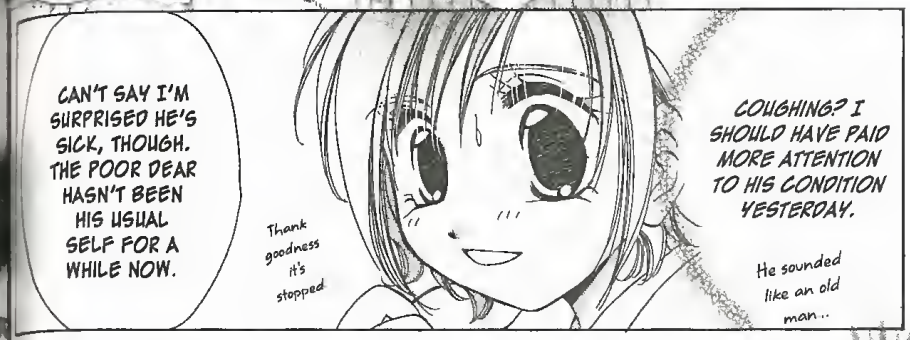
Oh, I do want to point out that while she may look young, she is actually quite a bit older than she appears. And yes, she is the woman who bore Yabe.

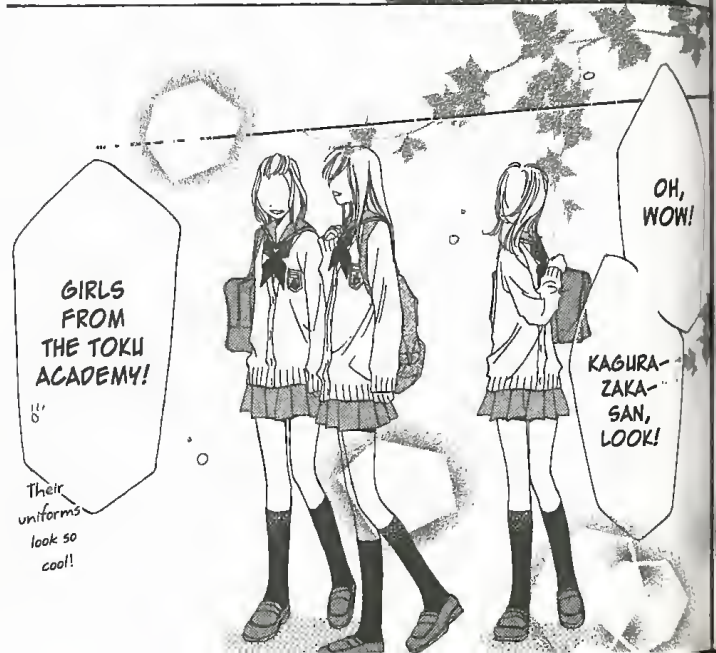
Well, what can I say...I love the idea of cute, young-looking mothers.

Hey! This is a shojo manga. I can do what I want, okay?!
ﾌﾝｯ (<- fake mad)

What?! Are you a momma's boy?

OH, NO! DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE OKAY?
WELL, HIS COUGHING STOPPED, SO THAT'S A GOOD SIGN THAT HE'S ON THE MEND.
HE RARELY GETS SICK, BUT THIS TIME HIRO-KUN NABBED HIMSELF A PRETTY NASTY COLD.
HIS TEMPERATURE'S BEEN UP SINCE YESTERDAY AND WON'T GO DOWN.
HI, UM... NICE TO MEET YOU.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
CONSCIENTIOUS MIKAO
We brought him some sweets
WOW, SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!
Oh, cool! Thanks!
COME IN, COME IN!
Senpai...
Yabe...
...big sister?!


CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED HE'S SICK, THOUGH. THE POOR DEAR HASN'T BEEN HIS USUAL SELF FOR A WHILE NOW.
Thank goodness it's stopped
COUGHING? I SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO HIS CONDITION YESTERDAY.
He sounded like an old man..



"SORRY. I'LL GO TO BED SOON."
HE'D SAY HE WAS FINE, BUT HE ALWAYS SOUNDED LIKE HE WAS LOST IN THOUGHT.
"WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T YOU SLEEP, HON'?
A COUPLE TIMES, I FOUND HIM SLUMPED IN FRONT OF THE TV IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
doze
"HIRO-KUN?"
WHAT?
HE HASN'T BEEN EATING...
...OR SLEEPING MUCH OF LATE.
MOUSSE
HONEY-SWEET CYCLES

WE DID...
"BACK TO WHEN YOU AND I..."
"...STILL SMILED. KANAKO WAS EVEN HAPPY THEN."
"WITH US BOTH DRESSED LIKE THIS, IT'S LIKE WE'VE STEPPED INTO A TIME WARP."
...HAVE A GREATEST MOMENT. I KNOW THAT FOR CERTAIN.
"COMPLETE TRUST ONLY TAKES THAT ONE, SINGLE MOMENT."
BUT...

mwaaaah
もわ～ん
WOULD KAGURAZAKA-SAN LIKE IT IF I WORE SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?
QUIT BLATHERING ABOUT POINTLESS CRAP AND MOVE YOUR BUTT, SEKINE.
WHAT?!
ARE YOU SURE?! THEY'RE FROM TOKU ACADEMY!!
The hardest girls to spot!
SHUT IT, WIENER.
UMM... ARE YOU...
...FEELING OKAY?
NOT REALLY. THIS WHOLE "GREATEST MOMENT" THING IS BUGGING ME.
"...THEN THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN RUIN IT."
"ONCE A COUPLE SHARES THEIR GREATEST MOMENT..."
WHAT THE HELL COULD IT BE?
THE WHAT?!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

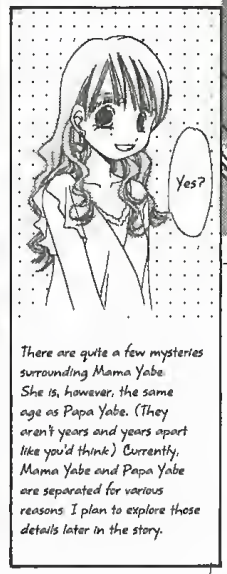
cold-pack
HUH?!
...WAS ALL JUST IN YOUR IMAGINATION?
THEN WHAT?
HIRAO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I KNOW. I FEEL LIKE I'M JUST CUTTING CLASS AGAIN.
YOU LOOK HEALTHY FOR SOMEONE WITH A FEVER.
N-NO... IT'S COOL.
He's very neat.
Um...
WHAT? IS THAT A PROBLEM?
AH!

WELL, LOOKIE HERE.
THE RAINBOW ARMY.
YOUR CAPTAIN ISN'T WITH YOU TODAY, GIRLS?
"...WON'T BETRAY ME."
"YABE-SENPAI..."
HE'S GOING TO MISS ONE HELL OF A PARTY!
TOO BAD.
KRIK KRAK
...THAT PRECIOUS "MOMENT"...
BUT WHAT IF...

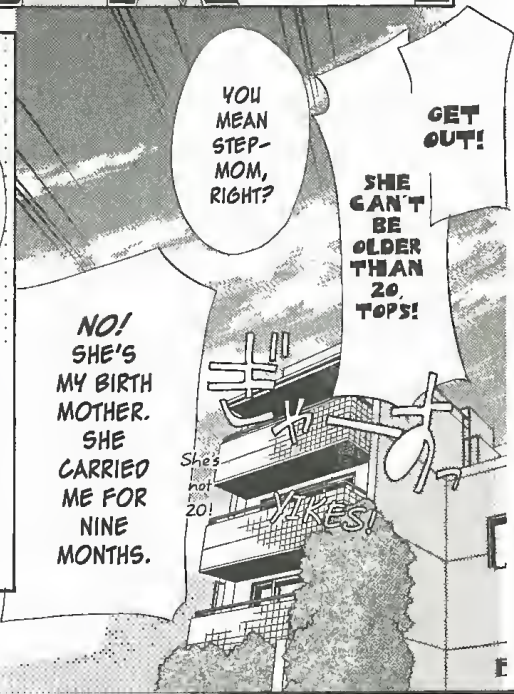
"LET'S SEE, HE STARTED TO SEEM DOWN... SOMETIME SOON AFTER THE CULTURE FESTIVAL, I THINK."

That's not mine!
MOM PUT IT THERE! SHE'S ALWAYS SNEAKING STUFF IN MY ROOM WHEN I'M NOT LOOKING!
I'm not some kind of sissy!
HIRAO! I SAID DON'T LOOK!!
YOUR MOM...?

THAT'S MY MOM!!
Dunno about pretty, but...
THAT'S NOT YOUR OLDER SISTER?
...THAT PRETTY LADY WEARING THE PINK TANK TOP AND CUT-OFF CAMMO PANTS?
YOU MEAN...



There are quite a few mysteries surrounding Mama Yabe. She is, however, the same age as Papa Yabe. (They aren't years and years apart like you'd think.) Currently, Mama Yabe and Papa Yabe are separated for various reasons. I plan to explore those details later in the story.


YOU MEAN STEP-MOM, RIGHT?
GET OUT!
SHE CAN'T BE OLDER THAN 20, TOPS!
NO! SHE'S MY BIRTH MOTHER. SHE CARRIED ME FOR NINE MONTHS.
She's not 20!
YIKES!

WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU OKAY, KID?
YOU'VE GOTTEN ALL QUIET.
NAB
SQUEEZE
HUH?
H-HIRAO? WHAT THE HELL?
I HAVE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
HIRAO-SENPAI...?
SQUEEEEEEZE
...OW...!
THINK HARD BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING. YOUR ANSWER COULD FORCE ME TO DO SOMETHING... DRASTIC.
SO, BE TRUTHFUL.
I'LL ASK ONCE, AND NEVER AGAIN.

BRRRRRRNG
BRRRRRRNG
O-OH...
THAT'S MY... UM...
BRRRRRRNG
HA HA... WOW! WHAT TIMING, HUH?
...THAT'S MY CELL.
WHY WOULD HIRAO-SENPAI ASK HIM SUCH A BIZARRE QUESTION?
HEL--
KANAKO'S BEEN KIDNAPPED.
HUH? IT'S FROM KAGURAZAKA-SAN...
What's she want?
OH, GOO...
...TALK ABOUT SURPRISING.

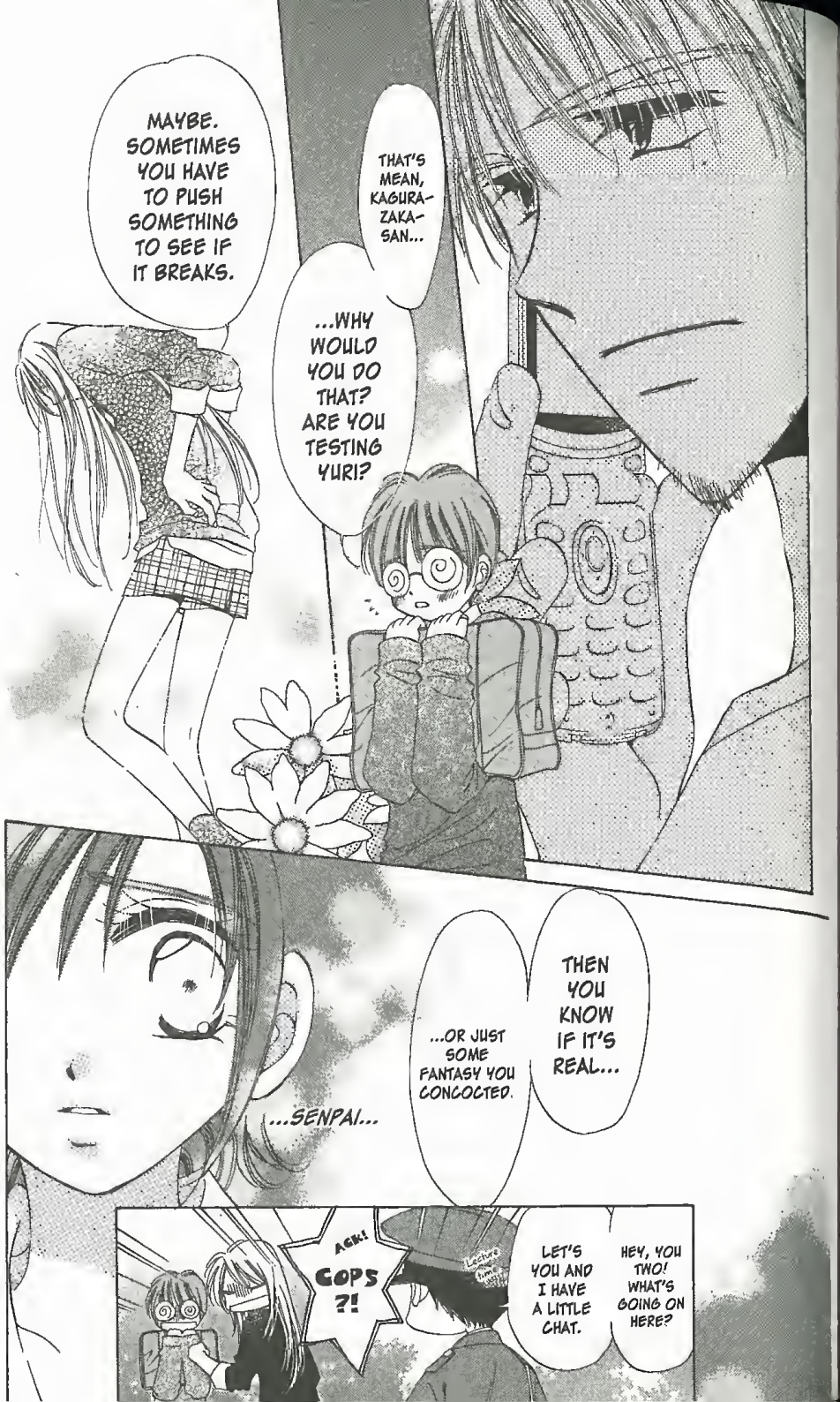
BRRRRRRNG
...ARE YOU ONLY USING MUROI'S FEELINGS FOR YOU...
...SO YOU CAN TRY AND FORGET KANAKO KAGURAZAKA?!
BRRRRRRNG
PLEASE, NO! STOP!
HIRAO-SENPAI, NO!
TELL ME STRAIGHT-UP, YABE...

...WAS CARRYING KANAKO'S BEAD RING.
ONE OF THESE GOONS...
I HAD YABE MAKE THAT RING FOR KANAKO.
THERE ISN'T ANOTHER ONE LIKE IT IN THE WORLD.
You went overboard again.
BEEP
KOFF
YURI?

YABE'S WITH YOU, RIGHT?
YEAH... W-WHY?
KRAK
NO JOKE, YURI.
IF YOU'RE JOKING WITH ME--
BUT WHY KANAKO-SAN?!
HUH?
THAT FREAKY QUEEN AND HIS ARMY KIDNAPPED KANAKO.
YOU CAN TELL HIM WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU OR NOT. THAT'S UP TO YOU.
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME. I'LL GET HER BACK WHETHER HE WANTS TO HELP ME OR I HAVE TO DO IT ALONE.
LIKE, REALLY REAL?
ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT REAL.
THIS IS FOR REAL?
W--
TELL HIM I'M LEADING A RAID ON THEIR DEN AND LET HIM DECIDE FOR HIMSELF. I DON'T CARE.
WAIT! KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN...
KOFF

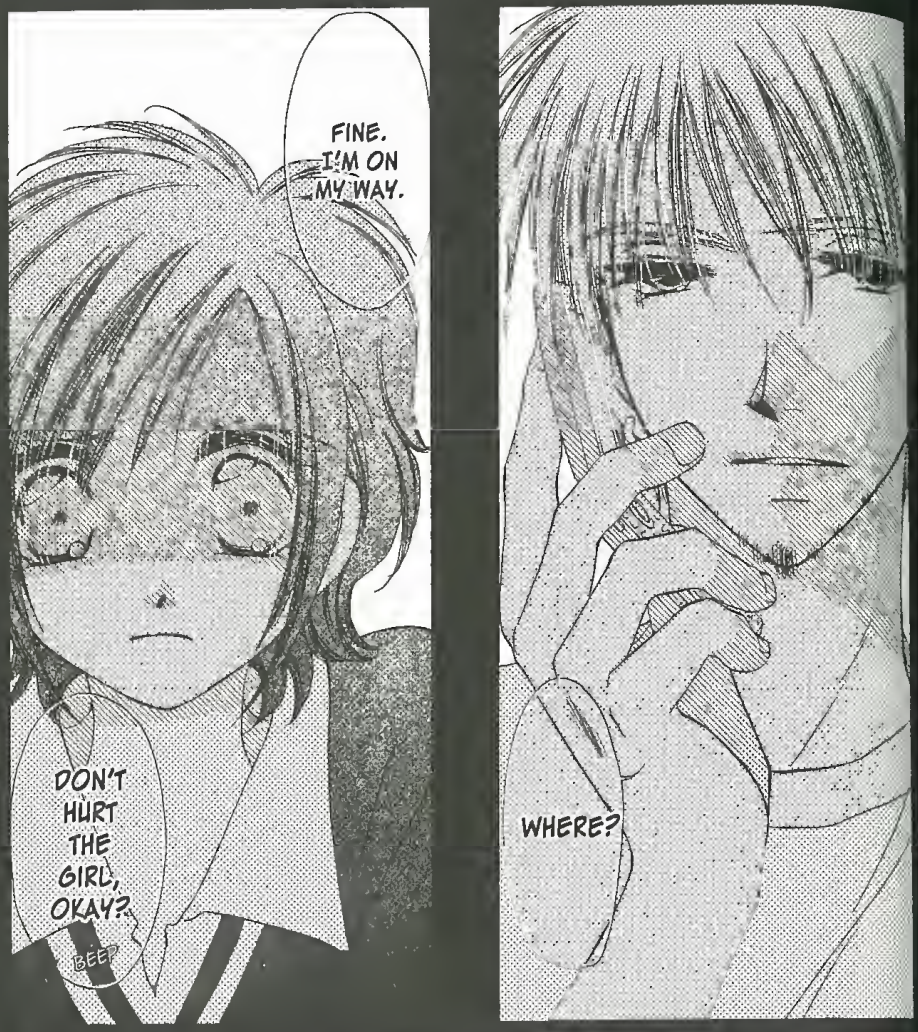
YEAH? WHAT?
NO, NO... I'M FINE.
AH, SENPAI! YOU'RE COUGHING AGAIN!
koff
koff
WHAT THE HECK?
GUESS IT'S MY TURN NOW.
YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S AWFULLY CUTE.
Huh?
MY "GIRL-FRIEND"?
HA HA HA HA HA! THE FLOOZY WITH THE BEAD RING, RETARD.
DON'T BELIEVE ME? I'LL LET HER TELL YOU.
Haah!
HEY!!
mmph
mmph

SHE'S IN REALLY DEEP TROUBLE...
...AND SHE NEEDS TO BE RESCUED.
SHE'S--
BRRRRRRNG
BRRRRRNG
"ARE YOU ONLY USING MUROI'S FEELINGS..."
"...SO YOU CAN TRY AND FORGET KANAKO KAGURAZAKA?!"
...KANAKO-SAN IS... UM...
...SHE'S...
I HAVE TO TRUST HIM!
MUROI?
.....
WHAT WAS MOTOKO SAYING ABOUT KANAKO?
DID THAT SHE-DEVIL DO SOMETHING CRAZY AGAIN?
I HAVE TO TRUST HIM.
N-NO...
UM...


MAYBE. SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PUSH SOMETHING TO SEE IF IT BREAKS.
THAT'S MEAN, KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN...
...WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT? ARE YOU TESTING YURI?
...SENPAI...
...OR JUST SOME FANTASY YOU CONCOCTED.
THEN YOU KNOW IF IT'S REAL...
AGK!
COPS?!
LET'S YOU AND I HAVE A LITTLE CHAT.
HEY, YOU TWO! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
YEOWCH!!
Is that really...?
LET ME GO!
SHE BIT ME!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT...
...CAPTAIN RAINBOW?
H-how did he--?
AFTER THAT...WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE.
A TRADE. YOUR MINX HERE FOR MY HONEYBUNCH SEKINE.

Gacha Gacha



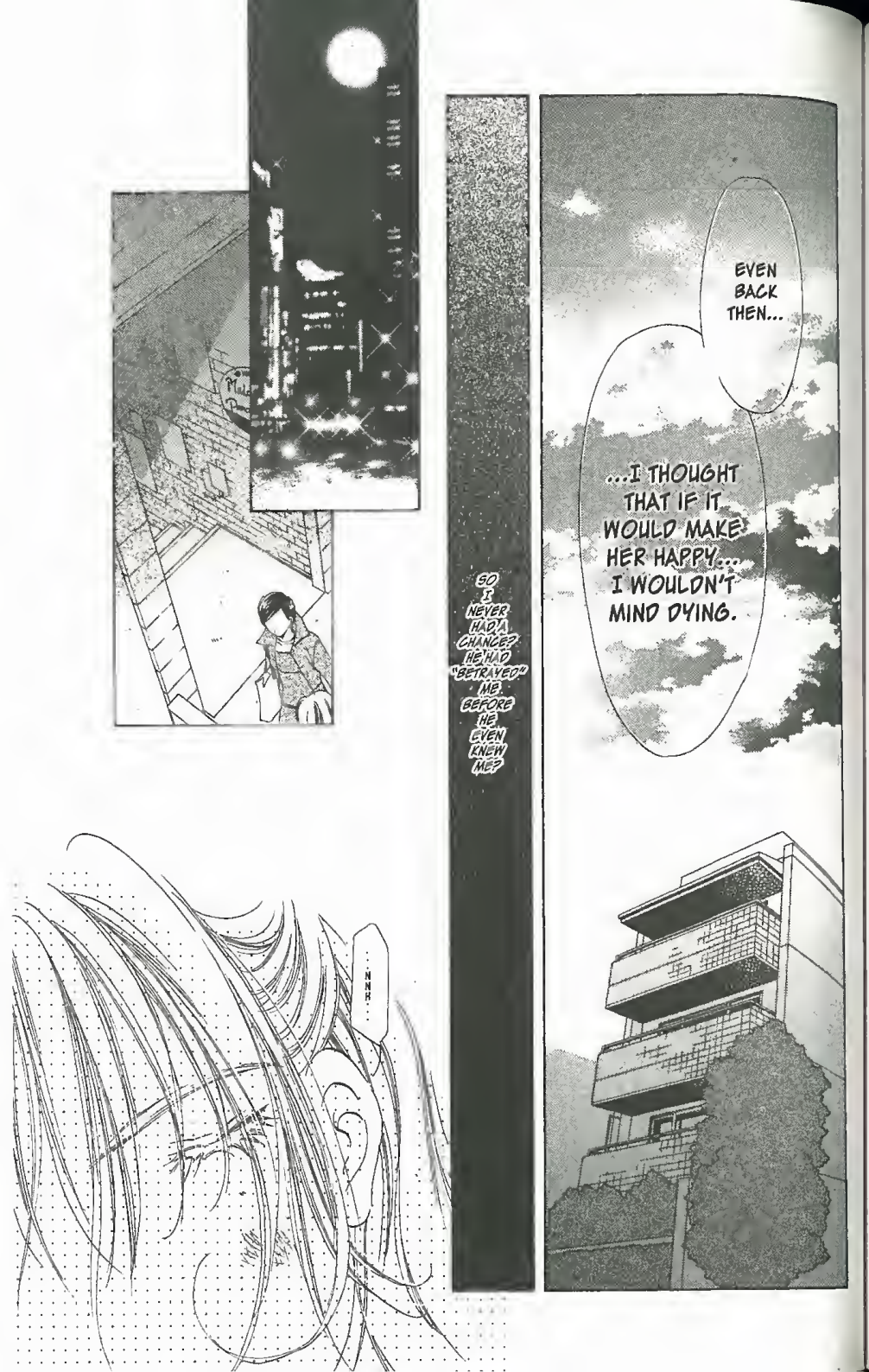
Please direct fan letters of love and adoration for Tachibana to:

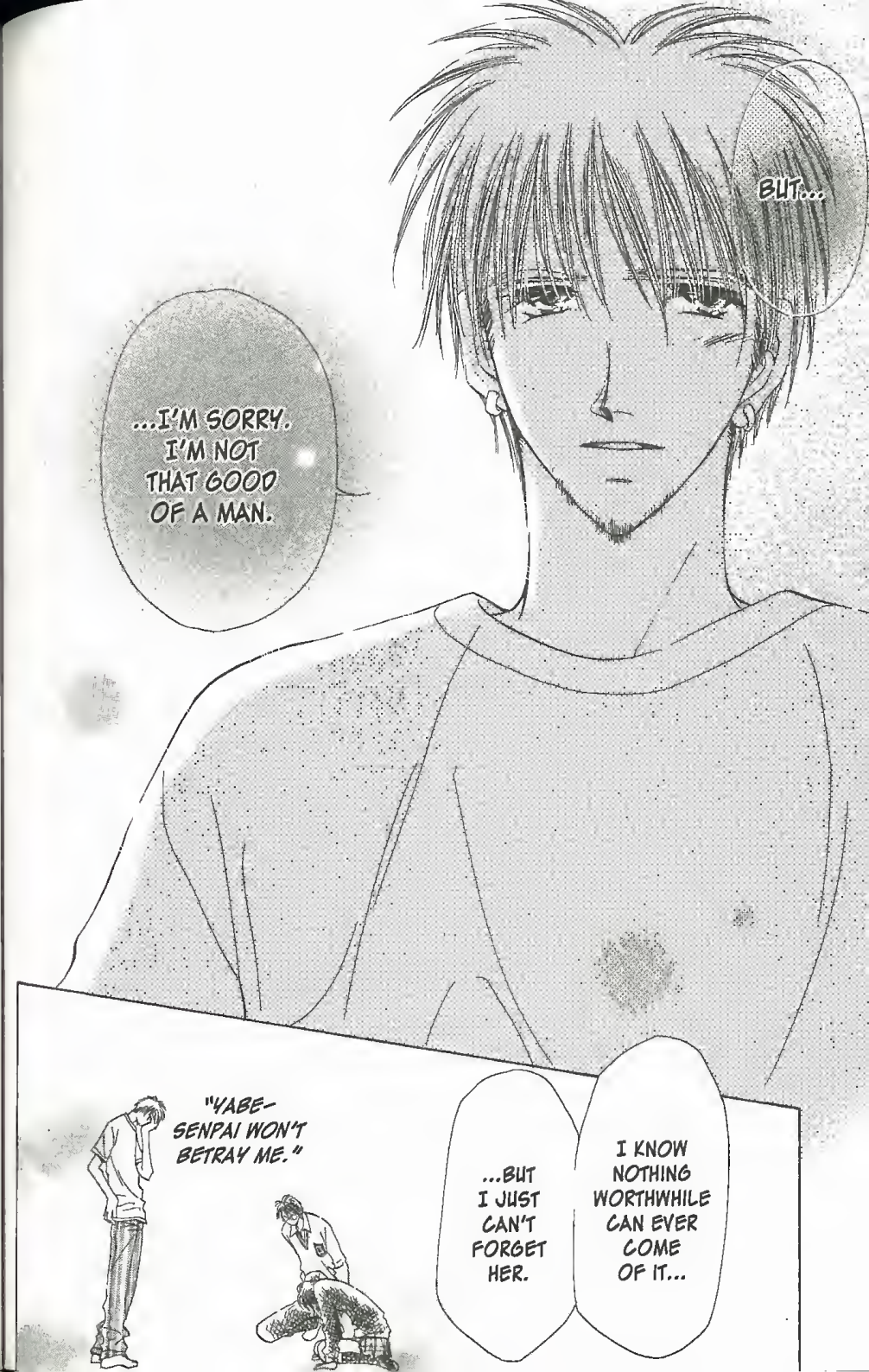
Yutaka Tachibana
C/O TOKYOPOP Editorial
5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036
U.S.A.

...BUT...
SENPAI! I-I...
...LET ME DO IT!
MUROI?
S-SO...
I PROMISE!
I'LL RESCUE KANAKO-SAN, EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!
...BUT, IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE...

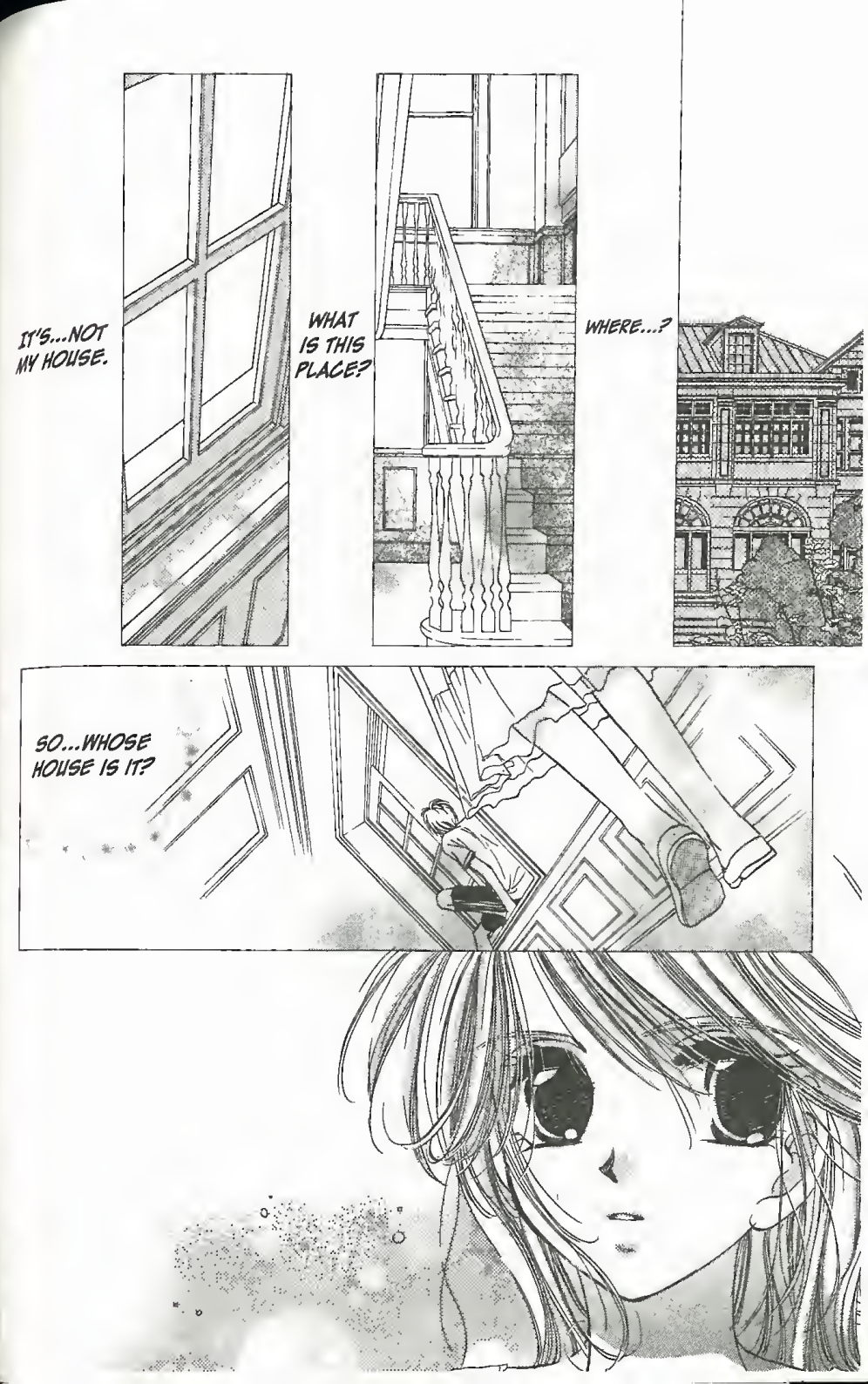
YABE!
HOLD UP A SEC'.
SORRY, GUYS.
I'VE GOT AN ERRAND I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WAH!
MUROI! DON'T JUST STAND THERE LOOKING PATHETIC!
ANY-WAY...
I'M SORRY, YURI.
THOSE ARE THE WORST TWO WORDS IN THE WORLD.
SORRY.
WAY TO GO! THEY ALWAYS HAVE TO APOLOGIZE?
I MEAN, I KNOW HE HAS TO HELP KANAKO-SAN.
THERE'S NO UNDERLYING MEANING TO IT. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO, AND I PROMISED I'D TRUST HIM.
BUT...

"I LOVE YOU."
"COMPLETE TRUST ONLY TAKES THAT ONE, SINGLE MOMENT."
"YABE-SENPAI..."
YURI...
"... WON'T..."
...I'M SORRY.
"... BETRAY ME."
I KNOW THAT IF I STAYED AND REALLY LEARNED TO LOVE YOU...
...I KNOW I COULD FINALLY BE HAPPY.
"ONCE A COUPLE SHARES THEIR GREATEST MOMENT, THEN THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN RUIN IT."
LET ME.
I'LL GO, INSTEAD!
...YABE-SENPAI'S ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND.
PLEASE, YABE-SEN-PAI
I'M BEGGING YOU!!
AND HIS MIND IS FOLLOWING HIS HEART.
DON'T GO!


EVEN BACK THEN...
...I THOUGHT THAT IF IT WOULD MAKE HER HAPPY... I WOULDN'T MIND DYING.
SO I NEVER HAD A CHANCE? HE HAD "BETRAYED" ME. BEFORE HE EVEN KNEW ME?
...NNH.


BUT...
...I'M SORRY. I'M NOT THAT GOOD OF A MAN.
I KNOW NOTHING WORTHWHILE CAN EVER COME OF IT...
...BUT I JUST CAN'T FORGET HER.
"YABE-SENPAI WON'T BETRAY ME."

WHO...
...IS THIS BOY?
SHE'S A GIRL.
NO.
SEEING HER IS LIKE RETURNING TO A FAMILIAR PLACE.
SHE'S THE MISSING HALF OF MY SOUL. I CAN FEEL IT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.


IT'S...NOT MY HOUSE.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHERE...?
SO...WHOSE HOUSE IS IT?

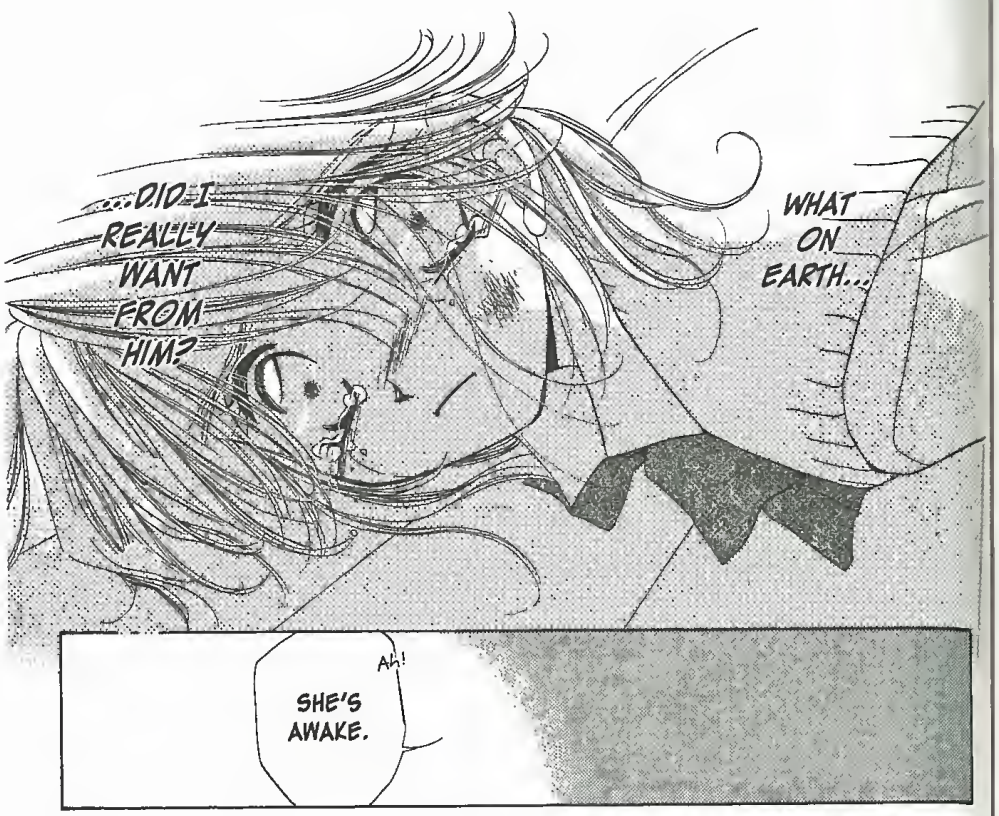
HOW DOES HE KNOW MY NAME?
TAKAHIRO...
IS SHE REALLY THAT SPECIAL?
YOUR "LITTLE SISTER"...
SPECIAL...?
I...
YOU'RE BEING WEIRD. WHAT'S WITH THE THIRD-DEGREE?
FOR ONCE I FEEL GOOD, BETTER THAN I HAVE IN A LONG TIME...
I KNOW THIS...
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...
OF COURSE. I AM HER, AND SHE IS ME.

LIKE I'M REUNITED WITH MY BELOVED.
I WISH WE COULD STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER.
"IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE..."
"...BY LOVING MOTOKO, YOU'RE LOVING YOURSELF..."
...KANAKO.
...WHAT? WHO'S THIS?

HE COULD SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
I STILL LOVE YOU.

WHAT?
NOBODY WILL MIND...
...IF YOU STAY LATE TODAY, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HECK WAS I THINKING?
...LIKE...!
THIS IS ALMOST LIKE...

THE HANDS THAT HELD ME—



WHERE AM I?
GIMME A BREAK! SHE BIT ME!
WELL, DUH! THAT BOZO SLAPPED HER AROUND. SHE'S SORE!
BUT SHE WAS SLEEPING LIKE A BABY BEFORE THIS.
WHAT THE HELL? SHE'S CRYING.

HE PITIED ME BECAUSE I WOULD GO AS FAR AS I HAD JUST TO DISTRACT HIM.

...BUT I COULD ALREADY FEEL HIS PITY RISING.

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH TAKAHIRO ACTUALLY KNEW...

THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER.

I THOUGHT I WAS COY AND SEDUCTIVE, BUT HE'D SEEN STRAIGHT THROUGH ME THE ENTIRE TIME.

IT WAS HUMILIATING.

EVERYTHING WAS OVER.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ALREADY OVER.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHY THE HELL DID WE KIDNAP HER IN THE FIRST PLACE? THIS IS SO STUPID.
SONOBE INVITED ME OUT FOR A SODA AFTER SCHOOL.
SHE'S OUR ONE ACE-IN-THE-HOLE AGAINST YABE.
No choice, dude.
"ONE OF MY DISTANT RELATIVES RUNS THIS LITTLE CAFÉ HERE."
It's dark... Here?
SONOBE WAS ACTING SUSPICIOUS, SO I TRIED TO BAIL, BUT...
"HOLD ON A SECOND, LITTLE MISS..."
...SO SPEAKS A KIDNAPPER!
YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL. FOLLOWING A GUY HOME, EVEN IF HE IS YOUR CLASSMATE, CAN BE DANGEROUS.
...THEN I GOT NABBED BY THAT WEIRD GUY.
I'D THOUGHT...
I REALLY AM, KAGAMI-SAN. THEY MADE ME.
...HE HAD A CRUSH ON ME. IT WAS SWEET.
THEY WERE GOING TO HURT ME.
shvr
shvr
shvr
Lectured on etiquette by a fruity thug..
IT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND IT WAS A TRICK.
I'M SORRY.
HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
WHY DON'T YOU LET HIM GO, ALREADY?
HE IS THE JERK WHO LURED YOU INTO THIS TRAP.
YOU SURE?
IT'S OKAY. IT'S NOT LIKE HE'LL TELL ANYONE WHAT'S HAPPENING. HE'S TOO MUCH OF A CHICKEN.
Yeah, because of you!
YOU MUST BE DOING SOME HEAVY THINKING. YOU SEEM NEWLY AWAKENED.
...STARTING TO REGRET THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED THAT DAY?
BESIDES...
I'VE DONE FAR, FAR WORSE THINGS THAN HE HAS.
AM I...
THEY SAID...
...THEY SAID THEY'D BUG ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE IF I DIDN'T DO WHAT THEY TOLD ME!!
NYA HA HA HA HA
DUDE! PANICKING IS CUTE!
I GET THE PICTURE.

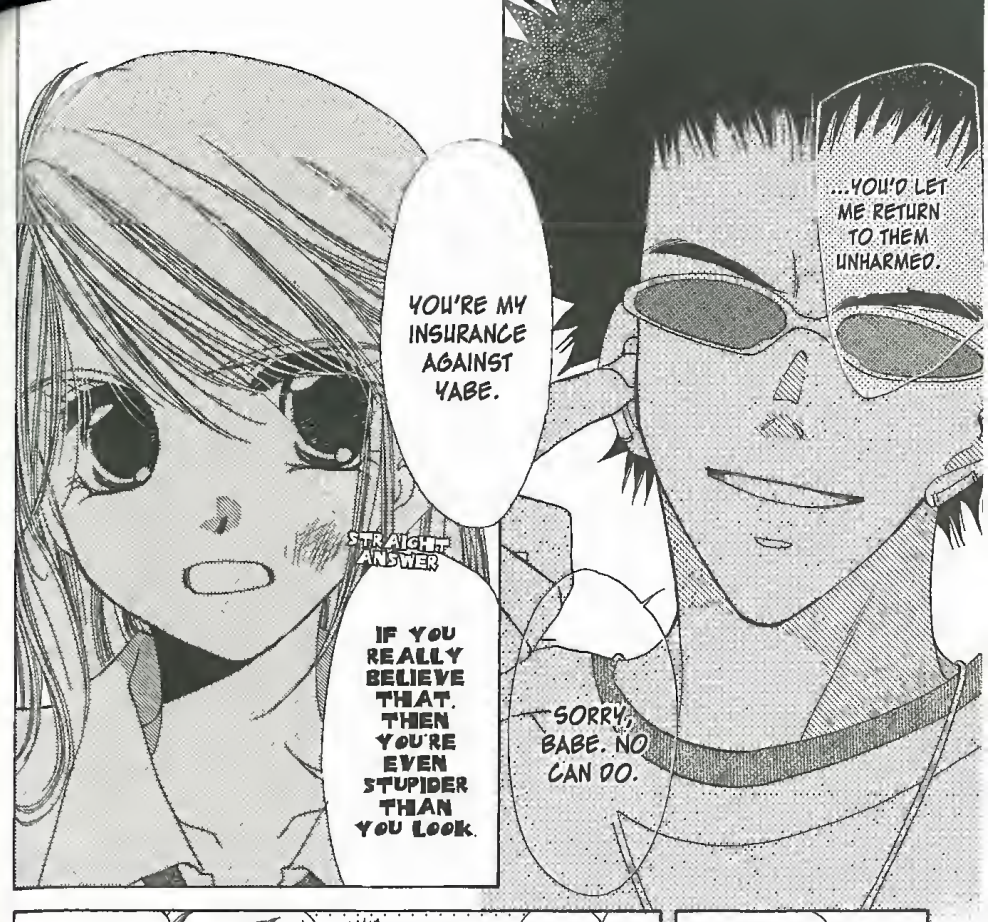
I'M SORRY I WORRIED YOU, MOM.
OH...
ALL RIGHT.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU MADE A FRIEND THAT YOU CAN HAVE SLUMBER PARTIES WITH.
OF COURSE. I'LL BE SURE TO REMEMBER MY MANNERS.
OH, NO, NO. IT'S OKAY. HER PARENTS ARE COOL.
THEY'RE VERY BUSY DOING... STUFF.
...HOLD ON A MINUTE, KANA-CHAN.
YOUR FATHER JUST CAME HOME.
HONEY, KANA-CHAN IS ON THE PHONE.
WHAT?
YEAH, BECAUSE THEY AREN'T BLOOD RELATIONS.
Well.
YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT A LOVING AND CONSIDERATE FAMILY.
NOW, IF YOU REALLY RESPECTED THEM FOR THAT...
OF COURSE.
HONEY, TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF INSIDE THE HOUSE!
HUH?
KANA?
What the--?
HELLO, KANA? YOU'D BETTER GET HOME QUICK IF YOU WANT ANY OF THESE MONT BLANC CANDIES, OR WE'LL EAT THEM ALL.
I had to fight off pushy office ladies for 'em
SORRY, DAD. I'VE GOT TO GO.
MOM CAN TELL YOU THE DETAILS. BYE!
beep

YES, THANKS TO YOU GOONS...
But...
DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH TO ANYONE IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
Get outta here.
MAYBE.
MAYBE SMACKING HER AROUND KNOCKED SOME SENSE INTO HER, SIR.
I KNEW I WAS BETTER OFF NOT REMEMBERING...
I'M SORRY, KAGAMI-SAN!!
I...
...ALL KINDS OF MEMORIES BEST LEFT FORGOTTEN ARE POPPING BACK INTO MY HEAD.

OH.
I HAVE ONE MORE REQUEST FOR YOU.
HI, MOM?
IT'S ME. SORRY I TOOK SO LONG TO CALL.
I'M GOING TO STAY AT NAKAJIMA-SAN'S PLACE.
YES, SHE'S ONE OF MY CLASSMATES.

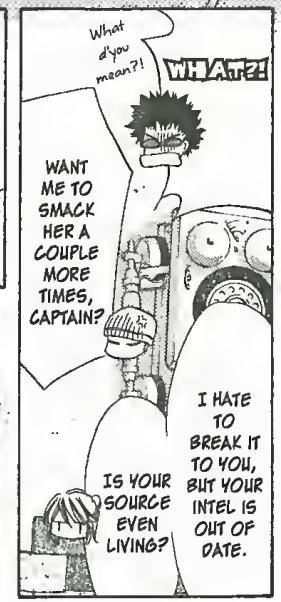
It looks like Yuri-san is in a bit of a pinch. The poor girl's life is a never-ending string of huge ups and dismal downs. Will she ever manage to find true love and happiness? Some people need to muddle through a few relationships before they really grow up, so I guess we'll have to chalk this one up as one of those and say, "It can't be helped." Besides, she's not quite smart enough to land a perfect relationship with a great guy in one shot. So, I think she's got a lot of struggling left to do yet.
Struggle, girl! Fight!
Crying won't solve anything, you know.

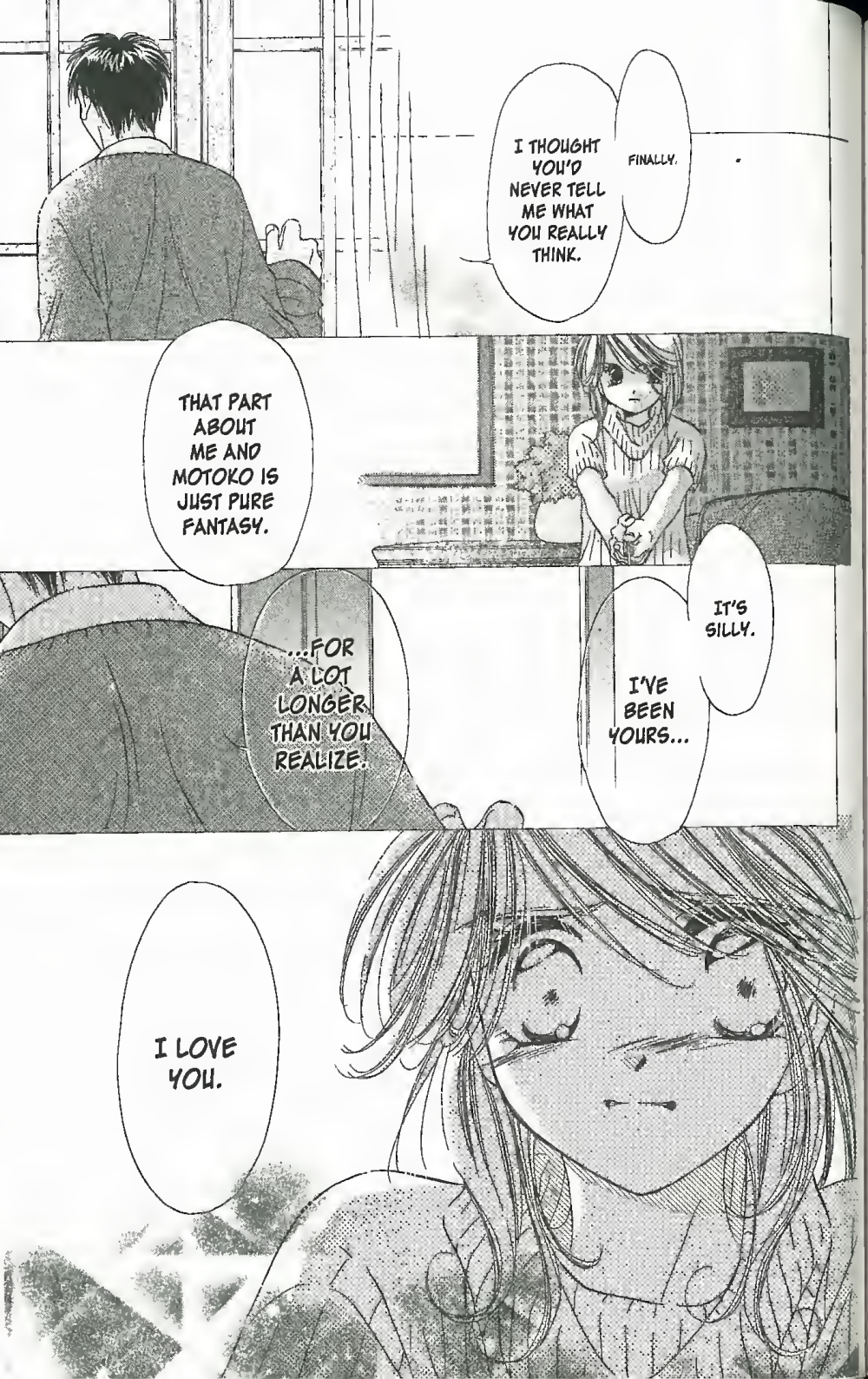
WHAT?!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING, AND I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW, EITHER.
WELL, YOUR INFO STILL SUCKS.
ALL I KNOW IS I'M NO GOOD AS BAIT.
HE WON'T COME.
But...
HE SAID HE WAS ON HIS WAY.
DUH! HE'S JUST MESSING WITH YOU!
Yeah! I heard him, too!
I MEAN...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.


YOU'RE MY INSURANCE AGAINST YABE.
STRAIGHT ANSWER
IF YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT, THEN YOU'RE EVEN STUPIDER THAN YOU LOOK.
...YOU'D LET ME RETURN TO THEM UNHARMED.
SORRY, BABE. NO CAN DO.

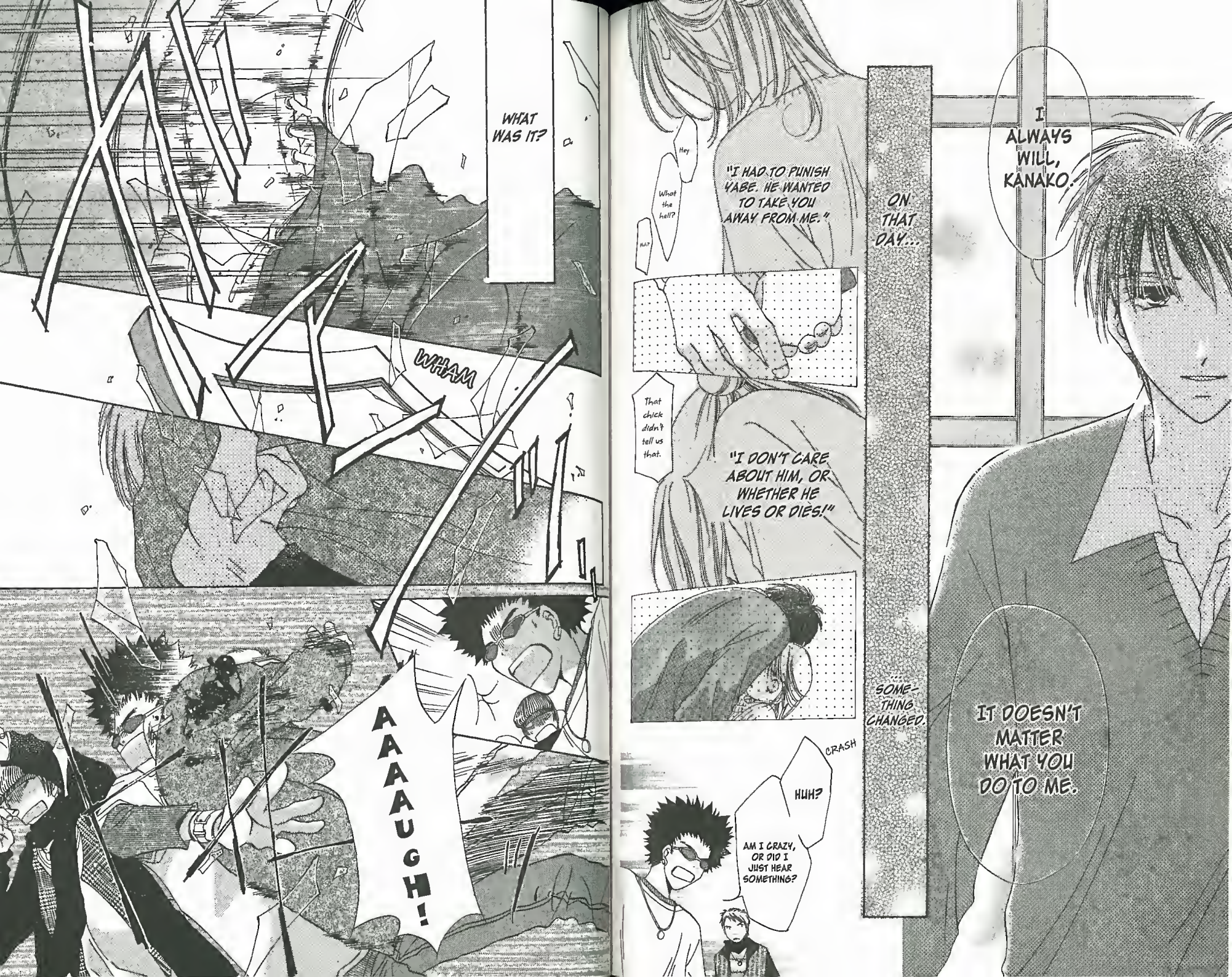
WHAT KIND OF BIMBOS DOES THAT DORK DATE...?!
Told us all sorts of stuff, actually.
SHOWED HER YOUR PICTURE AND SHE SAID HE HAD IT FOR YOU BAD.
SHE'S ONE OF YABE'S EXES.

SLUMP
JUST MY LUCK, THE WORLD THINKS I'M DEAD. GREAT...
Look-a-alike...?
THE REAL THING DIED A LONG TIME AGO.
SHE SAID YOU'RE JUST A LOOK-ALIKE, THOUGH.


What d'you mean?!
WHAT?!
WANT ME TO SMACK HER A COUPLE MORE TIMES, CAPTAIN?
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT YOUR INTEL IS OUT OF DATE.
IS YOUR SOURCE EVEN LIVING?


I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER TELL ME WHAT YOU REALLY THINK.
FINALLY.
THAT PART ABOUT ME AND MOTOKO IS JUST PURE FANTASY.
...FOR A LOT LONGER THAN YOU REALIZE.
IT'S SILLY.
I'VE BEEN YOURS...
I LOVE YOU.

I KNOW IT'S A WASTE OF TIME, THOUGH. MY DAYS ARE NUMBERED.
BUT I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF YOU AND MOTO-CHAN BEING HAPPY TOGETHER AFTER I DIE. I JUST CAN'T.
NOT THE GUY I STABBED.
"THEY FINALLY SET A DATE FOR MY SURGERY."


I ALWAYS WILL, KANAKO.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO ME.
ON THAT DAY...
.....SOMETHING CHANGED.
"I HAD TO PUNISH YABE. HE WANTED TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM ME."
Hey
What the hell?
Huh?
"I DON'T CARE ABOUT HIM, OR WHETHER HE LIVES OR DIES!"
That chick didn't tell us that.
CRASH
HUH?
AM I CRAZY, OR DID I JUST HEAR SOMETHING?
WHAM
WHAT WAS IT?
AAAAUGH!

SORRY ABOUT THIS.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DRAG YOU INTO ALL THIS CRAP.
STAGGER
WHOA...
KANAKO-SAN.
.....
YOU'RE NOT LOOKING SO HOT!
YOU KNOW, FOR PULLING A BIG FLASHY ENTRANCE...
OW!
"GIRL"? YOU MEAN THIS?
hiding behind the counter
HOT ENOUGH. NOW, LET THE GIRL GO.
YABE!

CRUNCH
clatter clatter
Oh God! Jason!
WHAT...
...WAS IT THAT I REALLY WANTED?

SWEAR TO ME YOU'LL NEVER TOUCH HER AGAIN!
HEY!
HERE'S YOUR STUFF. NOW SCRAM.
OKAY...
CAPTAIN!
DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT GIRL?!
I ORDERED YOU TO KNEEL, SO KNEEL ALREADY!
SH-SHUT UP, LOSER!
THEY SAY YOU WERE A TOTAL CHAMP.
YOU USED TO DO KENDO, RIGHT?
GUESS WHAT INTERESTING FACTOID I HEARD!
SOK

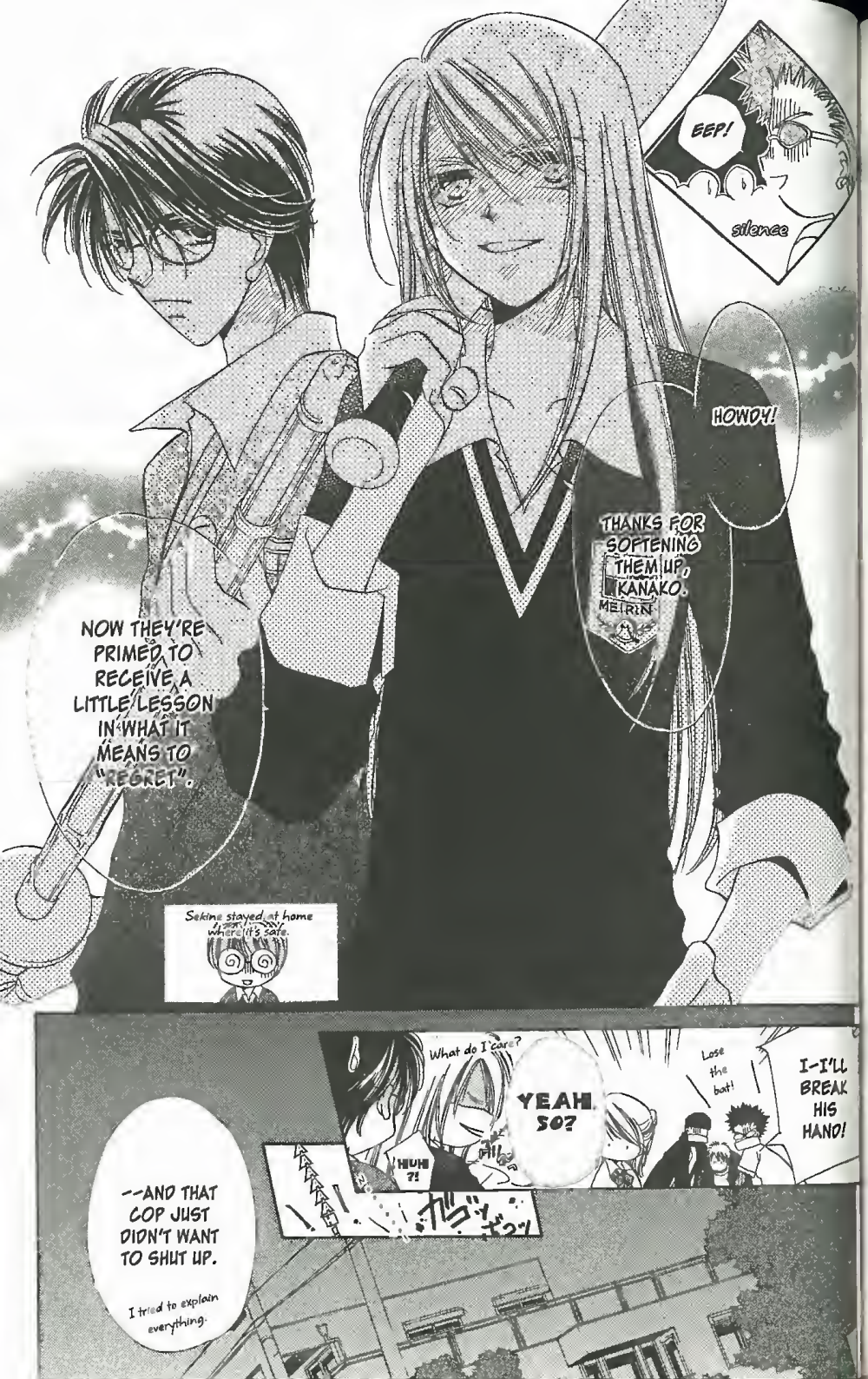
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, I MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE "ACCIDENT" AND SPILL BOILING WATER ALL OVER HER FACE.
SCREW YOU! DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO BOIL ME!
?!
GROVEL ON YOUR KNEES, AND I WON'T GET CLUMSY.
WELL, YABE?
HFF... OKAY.
WHAT?!
JUST UNTIE THE GIRL AND LET HER GO.
SHUT UP. DON'T SCREW UP YOUR OWN RESCUE.
ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?!
THESE GUYS LIKE GUYS! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO IF THEY GET A HOLD OF YOU?!
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF. YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.
Hadn't really thought about it too hard.
Perish the thought.
.....
SHUT UP, GIRLIE!

CRASH
WHAT THE HELL?!
--RPH!
WOP DO
KA...
LET ME GO!
HUH?!
RRRRG!
CAPTAIN! IT'S THE GIRL!!
I'VE GOT SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY TO THAT MORON OVER THERE, AND I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I DO!!
SHUT UP, YOU!
...KANAKO?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SUCH A SAP?!

YO!
SOMEBODY GET ME A CROWBAR!
WE ONLY EVER WANTED TO SQUASH YOU.
NO, ME! I WANNA!
CAPTAIN, LET ME DO IT! I WANT TO DO IT!
YOU KNEW FROM THE START THAT I'D NEVER BRING SEKINE.
WHAT, YOU'RE STILL HE--
HUH?
THIS IS SO INCREDIBLY, UNBELIEV-ABLY STUPID!
THIS IS STUPID.
YEAH.

WELL, THEN...
...AS PUNISHMENT FOR NOT BRINGING MY PRECIOUS DARLING SEKINE WITH YOU...
...HOW ABOUT I MAKE IT SO YOUR RIGHT HAND NEVER HOLDS A SHINAI AGAIN?

"...WHY...?"
IS IT YOUR PLAN...
...TO KEEP CONFUSING THINGS THIS WAY...?
"RUN..."
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO THINK ABOUT YOU ANYMORE!
"...THIS IS MY SIN."
WHAT IS IT I WANT? WHAT IS IT I'M TRYING TO FIND?
"...WHAT...?"
I LIED TO YOU AND I TRICKED YOU AND YOU ALMOST DIED BECAUSE OF IT!!
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF IMBECILE ARE YOU TO RESCUE SOMEONE LIKE ME?!
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!!
KANA--
"...LET GO OF THE KNIFE."
...I'LL LOSE SIGHT OF EVERYTHING...
"I'LL DO IT MYSELF."
NOT THEN, NOT EVER!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE I LOVE!
KANAKO... YOUR MEMORY...
YOU'LL DRAG ME IN...
SO STOP TRYING TO BE MY HERO!


EEP!
silence
HOWDY!
THANKS FOR SOFTENING THEM UP, KANAKO.
MEIRIN
NOW THEY'RE PRIMED TO RECEIVE A LITTLE LESSON IN WHAT IT MEANS TO "REGRET".
Sekine stayed at home where it's safe.
--AND THAT COP JUST DIDN'T WANT TO SHUT UP.
I tried to explain everything.
HUH?!
What do I care?
YEAH, SO?
Lose the bat!
I-I'LL BREAK HIS HAND!

STOP IT!
YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, BITCH.
STICK AROUND SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTH AND YOU'LL GET SQUASHED, TOO!
Captain, this dude's very strong!
I DON'T NEED YOU! THESE NUTJOBS DON'T SCARE ME!
EEK!
KANAKO?
ENOUGH!
HEARTWARMING-CONFESSION-TIME IS OVER!
YOU'LL REGRET EVER CROSSING ME!
STUPID PERV!
GO AHEAD! I DARE YOU! TRY TO HURT ME OR THAT DUMB LUMMOX OVER THERE!
...AND BREAK IT SO BAD, THAT STUPID WIG WON'T FIT ANYMORE!
WELL, FIRST, I THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT EMPTY HEAD OF YOURS...
REGRET? HOW CAN A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU MAKE ME REGRET?
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

SHE BEGGED AND HUMILIATED HERSELF FOR A LOWLIFE LIKE YOU!
.....
Yup.
EVEN THOUGH...
COULD YOU TRY TO BE A LITTLE MORE SENSITIVE TO HER CONDITION, KAGURAZAKA?
.....
...JUST SO YOU COULD RUSH TO THE SIDE OF MISS MENTALLY UNSTABLE OVER HERE.
...YOU THREW HER OUT LIKE A USED TISSUE...
I NEVER EXPECTED KANAKO TO REMEMBER WHO SHE WAS.
WHATEVER. LIFE HAS THROWN US AN UNEXPECTED CURVE.

DUNNO.
WHERE'S YURI, THEN?
SHE CAME WITH US AS FAR AS THE CAFÉ, BUT AFTER THAT...
...AND HIRAO CONVINCED HIM TO LET
Being us go.
Student Council President pays off!
HE WAS STILL DRONING ON AND ON WHEN HIRAO AND YURI CAME BY...
She'll be punished severely under the rules of our school.
HRMPH.

Sorry, dude.
I WASN'T PLANNING ON COMING, EITHER.
AT FIRST...

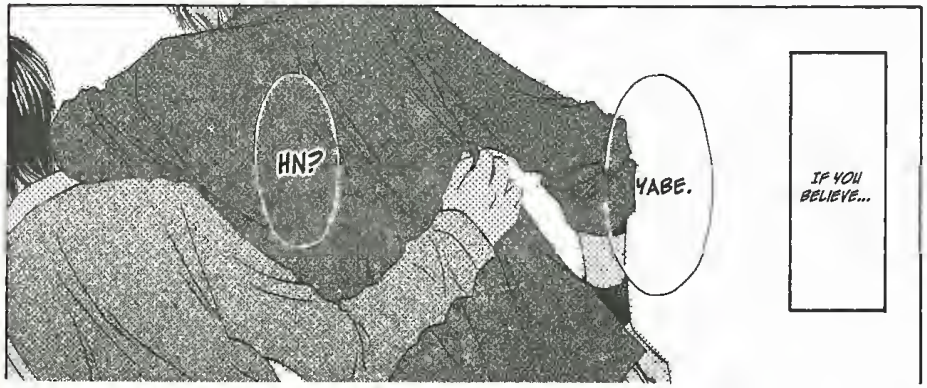
"YABE-SENPAI'S TOO SICK. IF HE TRIES TO FIGHT IN THAT CONDITION, HE'LL GET KILLED!"
"PLEASE!"

BUT...
YURI BEGGED ME TO. SHE WAS CRYING.
"HIRAO-SENPAI, PLEASE!"

THERE IS NO PERFECT LOVE OUT THERE FOR ME.
sniff... sniff...
GOD, PLEASE TELL ME...
...sniff...
WILL I EVER BE HAPPY?
WAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!
THAT IS, IF THE WORLD WERE A NICE PLACE.
I GUESS.
YOU AND I NEED TO TALK TOMORROW.
...AND WORK HARD, YOU'LL BE REWARDED.
WAAAAAAAAAH!!
...WILL IT EVER HAPPEN?

WHICH MEANS SHE'LL BE A TOTAL PAIN IN MY BUTT AGAIN.
OH, MOTO-CHAN!
LITTLE OL' ME?!
Totally back to normal.
ADORA

I DON'T MIND THAT YOU TOLD THE WORLD I WAS DEAD FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR. I'M COMPLETELY OVER IT!
LIKE HELL! YOU'RE HOLDING A GRUDGE AND YOU KNOW IT!
WAS IT ALL REALLY JUST IN MY HEAD?!


IF YOU BELIEVE...
YABE.
HN?

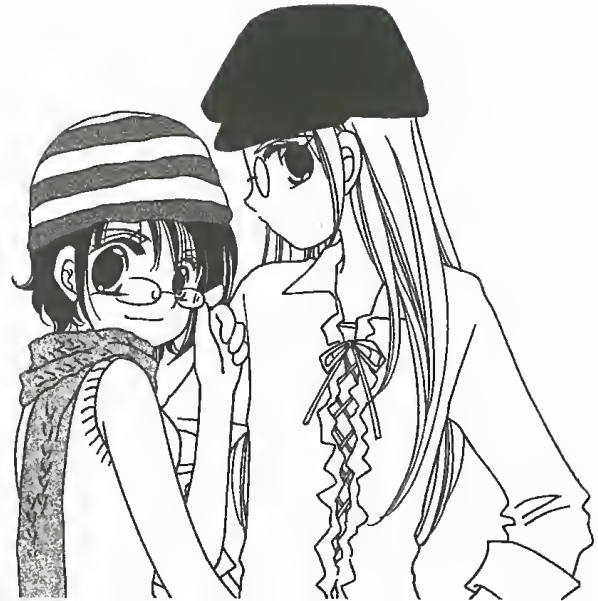
WHAT DID I DO?!
Oh, just shut your mouth off one too many times.
STARE
WHAT HAPPENED TO TAKAHIRO AND THAT HIRAO GUY?
IN THE "REFLECTION ROOM," THINKING REALLY, REALLY HARD ABOUT THEIR MISTAKES FROM THIS VOLUME.
SEE? I MAKE EVERYTHING BRIGHTER!
TA-DA-!
OH, I SEE. BUT...
...NOW THAT I'M HERE, THINGS ARE GOING TO GET GOOD.
KANAKO-SAN. YOU SHOULD SPEND SOME TIME IN THE REFLECTION ROOM, TOO.
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT THIS MANGA'S SO MESSED UP?!
Twitch
I guess I did go too far...
The Useless Guys.
...Now what...

P.S Tachibana Tells It Like It Is / END

P.S Tachibana Tells It Like It Is

Stay tuned for Volume 6, coming soon!

With Kanako's reappearance, Yuri is once again alone as Yabe rushes to save his old flame. Yuri is determined to not go down without a fight and continues to pursue Yabe with Hirao at her side to offer support. Yuri has remained clueless to Hirao's feelings for her but that may all change when he tells her how he really feels...



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Yuri and Yabe's relationship is thrown for a curve when they encounter Kagami, a girl who looks exactly like Motoko's older sister Kanako—otherwise known as Yabe's dead crush. Kagami claims never to have met Yabe, but everyone senses that something is amiss. Yuri goes to search for answers...and for Motoko, who has been mysteriously absent since the Culture Festival...

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